WARWICK

BIOGRAPHY OF A TOWN

MASSACHUSETTS

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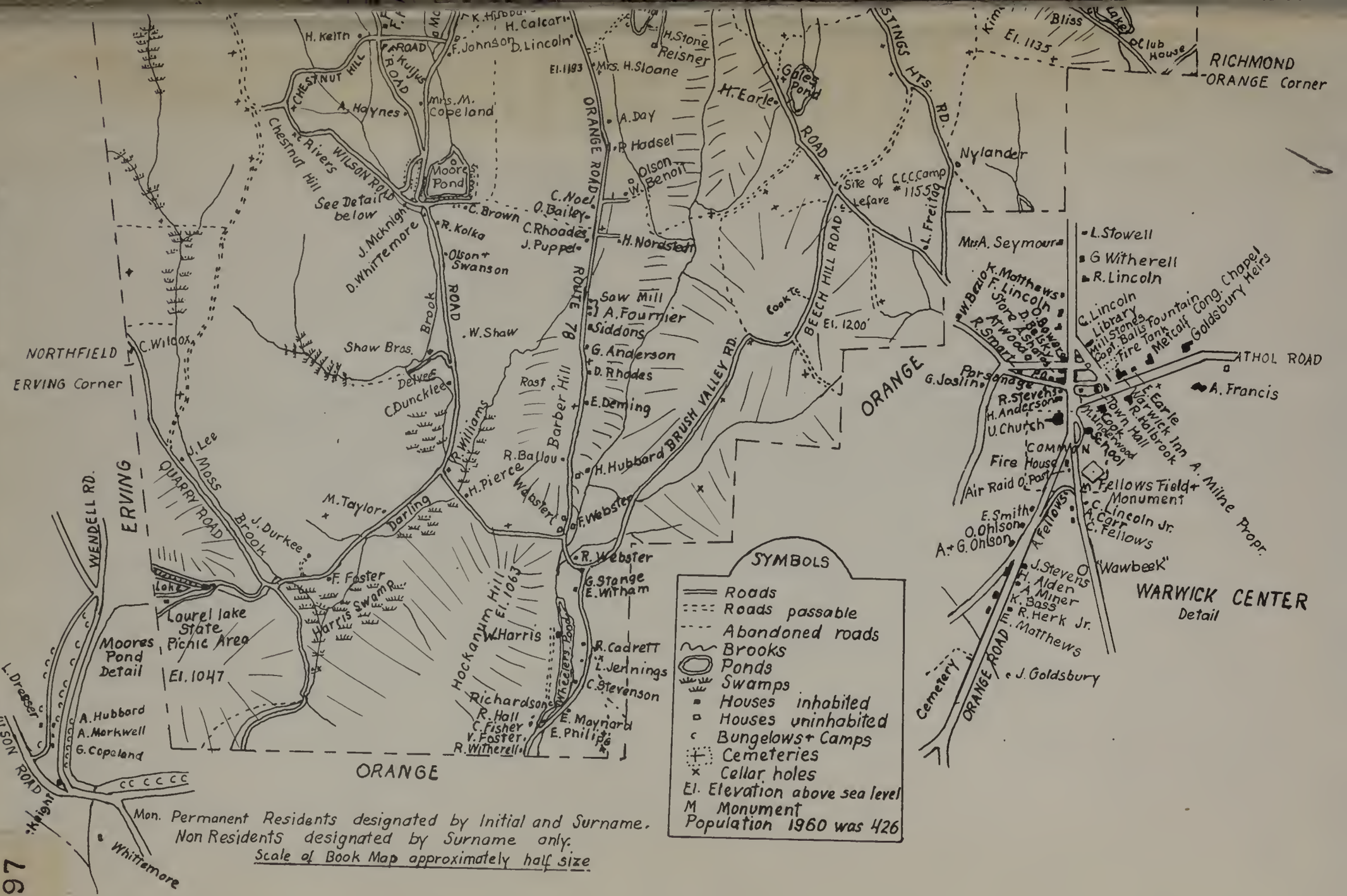

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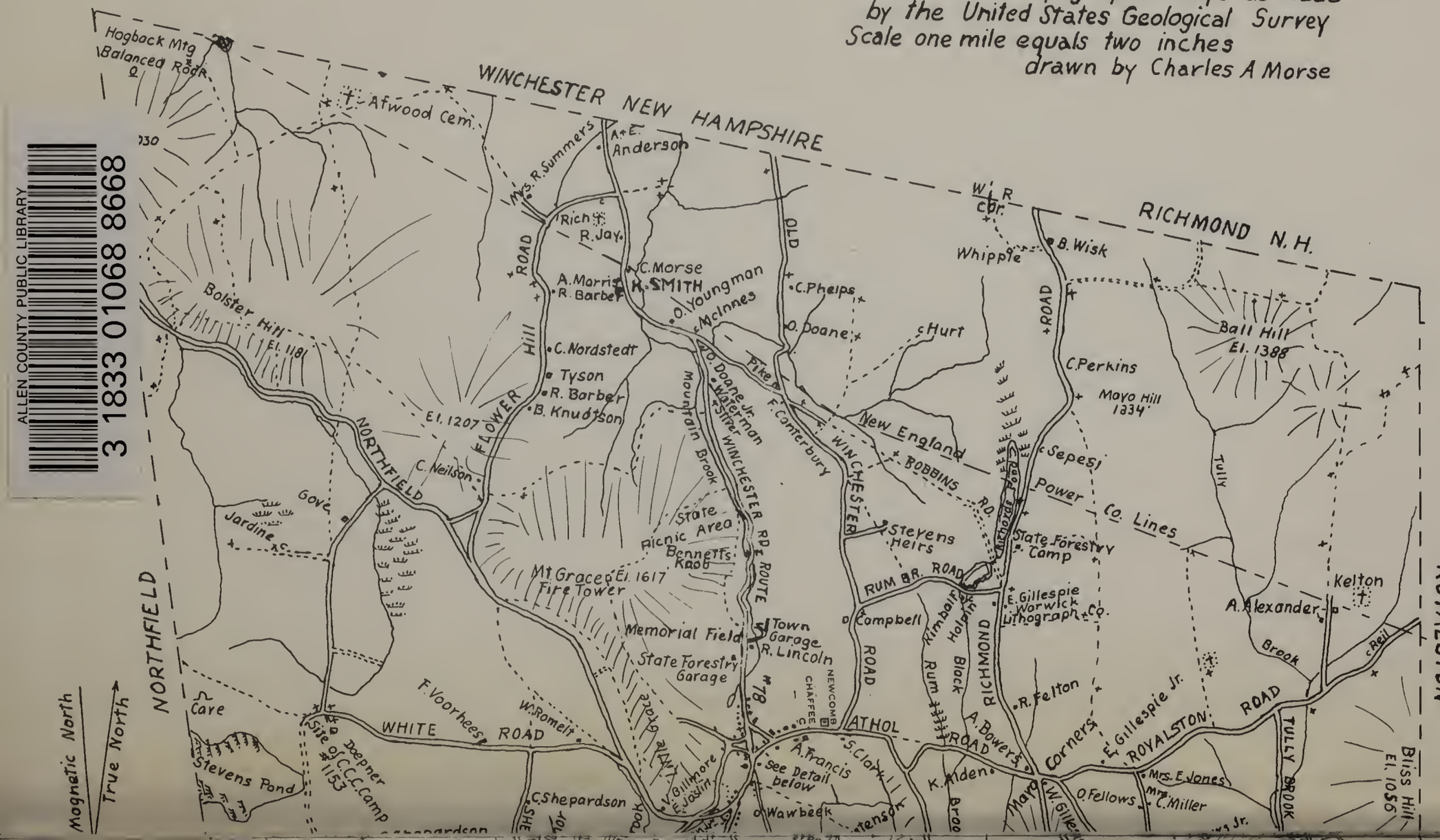
WARWICK

Plan of the Town of Warwick
made Feb. 17, 1963 for the Observance of
the Bicentennial of its Incorporation as a Town
Based on the Topographic maps as made
by the United States Geological Survey
Scale one mile equals two inches
drawn by Charles A Morse



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WARWICK, MASSACHUSETTS

BIOGRAPHY OF A TOWN

WARWICK, MASSACHUSETTS

Biography of a Town

BY CHARLES A. MORSE

1763 - 1963

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Cambridge, Massachusetts

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PREFACE

In writing this history of the town of Warwick we have attempted much more than the title indicates. While we are primarily concerned with what has transpired within the borders of the town from its early settlement to the present day, many events occurred far and wide which affected its history and are therefore a part of it. And so we give a brief sketch of the early colonial history of the province and the Connecticut valley as a prelude, showing what events led to the settlement.

Warwick was but one of many townships receiving similar grants from the Province of Massachusetts Bay in that period. Many had similar organizations, received similar directions, conditions and restrictions. All were affected by the successive French and Indian wars and faced the same problems to a greater or lesser degree. So we describe briefly the national events, the social and industrial changes and developments that all experienced. The story of our town is but an example of the story of many other towns that were created under similar conditions and faced similar problems. Thus we hope this book will have an appeal to our neighboring towns without a published history of their own.

The success or failure in overcoming these problems depended first on their ability to take advantage of modern transportation and second to compete successfully with the opening to emigration of the fertile level plains of the west. We have tried to give a glimpse of rural life in its various phases: industrial, social, religious, educational and civic, with the changes that occurred as the result of (shall we say) advancing civilization.

The preparation of this book has covered a period of 25 years, although the definite knowledge that the town approved the idea began in 1957. As a result of research done under the auspices of the Federal Writers' Project and the Historical Record Survey, both created in the Depression of the 1930's, considerable material was accumulated and was available to us. As the 200th anni-

versary of the incorporation of the town approached, sentiment began to grow favoring the publishing of a history of the town to commemorate the event. The Warwick Resident Reunion Association sponsored an article in the town warrant. A committee was authorized to investigate the proposition and, as a result of their report, the town voted to have the committee prepare this history and made the first appropriation toward the necessary cost. The original committee appointed was composed of Charles A. Morse, Mrs. Albert J. Morris, Mrs. Gunnar Thoren, Joseph Stevens and Oscar C. Doane, Jr. On the death of Mrs. Morris in 1957, Henry Nordstedt was appointed to the vacancy.

Work began on the project at once, using all available spare time. Due to the tremendous amount of research required, progress was necessarily slow. To be sure that no material was overlooked and to obtain information not available in Warwick, the following depositories of historical records were visited: Widener Library, Harvard University; Boston Public Library; Massachusetts Historical Society; New England Historic Genealogical Society; Worcester Antiquarian Society; State Archives, State House; also newspaper files at the Orange Enterprise & Journal and the Greenfield Recorder-Gazette were examined. The Athol, Orange and Greenfield Public Libraries supplied important information on several occasions as well as the Forbes Library in Northampton. All of these institutions were most cooperative, and we extend our heartfelt thanks.

Adequately to give credit to the many people who have provided records or who have assisted us in compiling this history, we must first honor some who have long since gone to their reward. These are the ones who showed their love for our town by writing, collecting, preserving and, finally, passing down to us their handiwork, listed in the bibliography.

The most important of these are the diaries of William Cobb, carefully written for 50 years and presented to the town by his grandson, George Burt Cobb. We also wish to acknowledge the valuable work performed by Mrs. Lizette Vorce in collecting photographs and pictures of Warwick events and scenes which she mounted in scrapbooks. These with her volumes of news-

paper clippings and miscellaneous manuscripts have been most helpful. Similar material recorded or preserved by Miss Rhoda Cook was made available to us by George Cook of Springfield. Mrs. Anna L. Gale of Orange and her daughter Mrs. Elizabeth Furbush provided valuable background material; also Mrs. Etta M. T. Bass and her daughter Katherine Bass, former Assistant Librarian of the Woburn Public Library.

Valuable assistance was given by Harry C. Earle, Oscar Ohlson, George A. Witherell, Mrs. Julia Green, Howard Anderson, Frank and Russell Webster, Dr. Paul W. Goldsbury, Edwin Gillespie, Mrs. Nellie M. Francis, George Shepardson, Fred R. Lincoln, Amos Alexander, Ralph Holbrook and Gunnar Thoren.

Among the descendants of former residents who have aided in the work are William Leonard (Chicago, Illinois), Louise R. Wilson (Amherst), Viola D. Haven (Fitchburg), Mrs. Florine Delvee Thayer (North Abington), Howland Fay Atwood (Los Angeles, California), Allen Frizzel (Greenfield), Mrs. Violet Barber Comerford (Orange), John P. Rich (Nashua, New Hampshire), Cynthia Rich Wood (Ramsey, New Jersey) and Mrs. Dorothy Kendall Steinhardt (Milwaukee, Wisconsin).

Our town clerk, Miss Elizabeth S. Earle, gave us access to all town records and together with our selectmen and assessors, Robert Kolka, Paul Hadsel, Gordon S. Anderson, Charles E. Lincoln, Glenn Matthews, assisted in every way possible.

We also wish to acknowledge the constructive criticism and advice received from a former resident of Warwick, George A. Chaffee, Editor of Dresser, Chapman & Grimes, Inc., publishers of this volume.

Special thanks are due Mrs. Bessie Thoren for unstinting help and advice, and to Mrs. Grace C. Morse who gave her services in typing the entire manuscript several times and, in addition, preparing the index.

To all we express our gratitude but we trust their real reward will come from the knowledge that they had a part in preserving the story of their town for future generations.

Many contradictions will be found in the spelling of names. We have copied the variations as found in the original records.

For example, the Indian name (Pequog) of Athol has many forms, depending on the individual early scribe.

As to scope, this book could well have been twice as long. But we had to limit ourselves. Our hope is that your judgment and ours lie not too far apart.

CHARLES A. MORSE

Warwick, Massachusetts
January 14, 1963

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PART ONE

HISTORY

1

PROLOGUE

THE HISTORY OF WARWICK, MASSACHUSETTS, properly begins in the year 1735 when the grant of the township was made by the Province of Massachusetts Bay. Although the area had little previous claim to fame in the earlier history of the Province it was becoming of increasing importance in the plans for its future growth. The area of rugged mountainous land six miles square lying east of the rapidly growing town of Northfield had never been more than a hunting ground for the Indians and more recently the white settlers. Now not only this relatively small area but all of the uninhabited region surrounding the established townships along the Connecticut Valley was to be opened to colonization. Thus a brief history of these early settlements should be given as a prelude to that of the town of Warwick which followed in their footsteps.

A century had passed since the day when the Pilgrims had landed at Plymouth to begin the colonization of New England. They had been followed closely by the Puritans, and soon the colonists had become firmly established along the seacoast. The settlers gradually began to penetrate inland but the progress was slow because of several obstacles.

The first of these was the fear of Indian uprisings. True there had been no serious trouble between the natives and the whites since the Pequods had been ruthlessly crushed in 1637. This tribe had been the most warlike of the Algonquin Nation and occupied the eastern half of the state of Connecticut. The Wampanoags under their sachem Massasoit occupied the area west of the Plymouth colony, and the more numerous Narragansetts inhabited Rhode Island. Probably the largest tribe to the north was the Nipmucks in central Massachusetts. The Pacomptocks were located along the Connecticut River and usually were allies

of the Nipmucks. Most authorities consider the Pacomptocks to include the Agawam Indians in the neighborhood of Springfield and the Nonotucks who inhabited the region as far north as Deerfield. The Pacomptocks occupied the Deerfield River valley. The Squakheags who claimed the Connecticut Valley from Turners Falls to the vicinity of Brattleboro were not considered related to either the Pacomptocks or the Nipmucks but were on more intimate terms with the Pennacook Indians in southern New Hampshire.

The second obstacle that had to be overcome before settlers could penetrate inland was the difficulty of finding or providing adequate transportation facilities between the outlying settlements and the seacoast towns. Roads, or even trails, were difficult to build and rivers were utilized to provide water transportation as much as possible. Thus settlements were made along the Connecticut River advancing northward to Massachusetts. Springfield had been settled in 1636, Northampton in 1656, Hadley in 1661 and Deerfield in 1669. The Indians were the only occupants of a vast territory between the river and the eastern settlements. It was only a few years before King Philip's War that Worcester and Brookfield were settled. In 1669 the same party of men who had laid out the first settlement at Worcester conducted an exploration trip to the northwest which terminated at the Indian village of Squakheag (Northfield) on the Connecticut River. Impressed with the excellent location, they recommended to the General Court of the Province that a settlement be established there.

Two years later a party from Northampton journeyed up the river and found that the Indians in possession of the land were willing to sell it. The Squakheags had suffered a recent defeat at the hands of the warlike Mohawks to the west and now hoped that the coming of white settlers would protect them.

The first settlers arrived in the spring of 1673 and the settlement made rapid progress for two years. Relations between the Indians and the whites generally speaking had been harmonious along the Connecticut Valley. However in the eastern part of the colony, after the death of Massasoit, the Indians gradually

had become alarmed at the rapid increase in the number of colonists and finally began to awaken to the danger of losing the land that still remained in their possession. Under the leadership of Philip, the son of Massasoit, many of the tribes united and attacked the white settlers in the summer of 1675. Settlement after settlement felt the fury of the Indian attacks as the war rapidly spread to every section of the province. Soon it was evident that many of the outlying settlements would have to be abandoned because of their defenseless position.

On the third of September Captain Beers set out with thirty-six men and several wagons to effect the evacuation of Squakheag. When only two miles from his destination Beers and his party ran into an ambush and the Captain and half of his party were slain. Two days later the settlement was evacuated successfully and a week later, when Deerfield was attacked, it was decided to evacuate that town also.

Captain Lathrop was ordered to bring the inhabitants and what possessions they could salvage to safety. The expedition, composed of fugitives, loaded carts and troops, left Deerfield and soon entered the woods in the direction of Northampton. As they crossed the little brook deep in the forest of what is now the town of South Deerfield they found themselves surrounded by hundreds of howling bloodthirsty savages. Today a monument commemorates the Bloody Brook Massacre and the loss of Lathrop and nearly all of his company.

The number of inhabited towns in western Massachusetts was now reduced to five, of which Springfield with a population of about 500 was the largest. In October most of the troops were assembled near Hadley preparing to advance against the Indians, leaving Springfield to defend itself. As a result the town barely escaped destruction, as supposedly loyal Indians suddenly attacked.

Hatfield also successfully resisted a heavy Indian attack on October 19th but the position of the settlers was desperate indeed as, penned up in crowded forts, they watched the pillars of smoke that told them their abandoned homes and possessions had been destroyed.

But the stubborn defense put up by these settlements must have convinced the Indians that they would suffer tremendous losses from any further attempts to subdue them, and they changed their activities to raids on the outlying settlements in the eastern part of the province. During the extremely severe winter of 1675-1676 the savages remained secure from attack in their winter quarters. Squakheag was the refuge of many of them, and here King Philip was to spend a portion of his time.

On February 10, 1676 Lancaster was attacked and partially destroyed. Mrs. Mary Rowlandson, the wife of the minister, and her children were among the captives, and she was forced to begin the long march to Squakheag with her severely wounded daughter in her arms. Mrs. Rowlandson wrote an account of her captivity telling of the death and burial of her daughter after she had carried the child for eight days. The trail followed by the Indians crossed the Millers River near the Indian village of Paquoag (Athol), turned west and crossed the southwest corner of what is now the town of Warwick. It followed Moss Brook until it crossed the Great Swamp in Northfield, passed over the northern end of Crag Mountain and then descended along the course of Roaring Brook north of Beers Mountain to the Indian village of Squagheag, located on Beers Plain. (Temple & Sheldon, Northfield, p. 50)

The story of Mrs. Rowlandson's sojourn with the Indians and her eventual redemption was vaguely known to the early settlers of Northfield, and for over 150 years it was the accepted belief that her child was buried near the foot of Mount Grace. As a result the mountain was considered to have received its name as a memorial to the child. When the story written by Mrs. Rowlandson in 1682 was widely reprinted later it disclosed that her daughter's name was Sarah and not Grace, and that her death and burial took place in New Braintree before the crossing of the Millers River.

This apparently refuted beyond any question the age-old tradition of the naming of the mountain. Nevertheless no other explanation has been offered to our knowledge as to the origin of the name which appears in the records of the General Court

as early as 1735. It is possible that the name "Grace" was used in error and when firmly established by the passing years it was hopeless to attempt to correct it.

The spring of 1676 was to be a terrible ordeal for the colonists as town after town became the object of Indian raids. But now the tide began to turn as the colonists organized an effective campaign and took the initiative.

The heaviest blow was struck against the Indians assembled on the Connecticut River at Peskeompscut Falls, about five miles above Deerfield. Here Captain Turner with a hastily assembled force of 150 men and boys surprised the Indian encampment and slaughtered several hundred savages. The brave captain lost his life during the retreat but the site of his deed will always be known as Turners Falls.

The severe loss sustained by the Indians was a serious blow and from this date their eventual defeat and subjugation became rapid. While the danger of further Indian attacks had been permanently removed the colonists had received a serious setback in their progress of colonization. Many townships had been either captured or abandoned and these had been totally destroyed. As soon as the war was ended the task of resettling and rebuilding began. But the cost of the war had been tremendous and it was over 20 years before the Province had resettled all that had been destroyed.

Nine years were to pass before any attempt was made to resettle the township at Squakheag, and within three years hostile Indians once more began to ambush and harass the settlers. These were former Connecticut River valley Indians who had fled north to Canada after King Philip's death and now, allied with the French, were incited by them to attack the English colonists.

When war was formally declared between France and England in 1690, and with the Indian raids now led by the French, Northfield was again abandoned as being too remote to defend. There was a short period of peace from 1698 to 1702, then the war was resumed to continue unabated until 1713. The outstanding event during what is known as Queen Anne's War was the de-

struction of Deerfield in 1704 by an expedition of French and Indians.

No sooner had peace been declared than steps were taken to settle Northfield again. During the years of peace from 1713 to 1723 the settlement grew rapidly and the future appeared bright, but once again war broke out between the Province of Massachusetts Bay and Canada. Father Ralle's War, as it was known, was to keep the valley in a state of turmoil until 1726. The peace that was to follow lasted 18 years and during this interval the Province began its energetic plan to grant townships in the surrounding area.

Soon after the close of Father Ralle's War between the Province of Massachusetts Bay and New Hampshire against Canada steps were taken to encourage the settling of the vast area of uninhabited country around the town of Northfield. Doubtless it was the belief of the Governor, his Council and the General Court that this peace would not be a lasting one and that further war was inevitable. The best defense against the encroachment of the French was to establish and encourage settlements in the area.

There were many people residing in the eastern part of the province in what doubtless to them seemed crowded quarters and who wanted more elbow room. Probably others saw in this available land the opportunity to better their way of life. However, the treasury of the Province had been sadly depleted by the cost of the several wars and there were many claims for services rendered the colony, some going back as far as King Philip's War in 1675-1676. So it became the policy of the General Court to reward or pay off these claims as far as possible by granting land to soldiers or their descendants and to others to whom the Province might be indebted. Often soldiers or their descendants who had engaged in some military expedition would be compensated in a body by the grant of a plantation or township. Thus Fallstown, now Bernardston, was granted to the survivors and descendants of Captain Turner's command which had surprised and massacred the Indians at Turners Falls in 1676, the grant being made in 1734, fifty-eight years later.

Among the many grants given to individuals there were three

which lay in the area that now comprises the town of Warwick. The first of these consisted of 200 acres given to Joseph Severance of Deerfield. The land lies on both sides of Shepardson Road and includes the residences of Frederick W. Harris and Bessie and Gunnar Thoren. The petition submitted by Severance stated "that about 21 years ago he was wounded by the Indian Enemy being a Soldier in the Service of the Province and has been a Cripple ever Since, and like to be So till his death. And for as much as the Pet^{r} has never had any thing from this Government for his Support, Therefore praying for some Allowance from this Court in consideration of his Wounds and his Disability thereby." (Acts & Resolves, Vol. XII, p. 53)

A second grant of 800 acres was made to Zachariah Field of Northfield as compensation for his services in purchasing from the Indians land along the Millers River where the township of Paquoig, now Athol, was granted. This land in the southeast corner of Warwick was part of the area set off to the District of Orange in 1783.

A third grant of 1355 acres had been made to Samuel Kendall, William Johnson and ten others, all grantees of Townsend, as a result of their petition "Shewing that they have purchased of the province Certain lands at a place called Turkey Hills (now Townsend) that since taking up their lots it Appears that a Tract of land called Hathorns farm was formerly laid out in the Same place, So that they may lose the land upon which they have Made Considerable Improvements Praying that this Court would Grant them an Equivalent for the land they will hereby loose." (A&R, Vol. XI, pp. 113, 190) This land was commonly called the Hathorn or Great Farm and included the western half of Mount Grace and all of Flower Hill, extending from the original southern boundary of Arlington (now Winchester) south to the Severance grant.

As a result of a petition by Josiah Willard and 63 other inhabitants of the town of Lunenburg a plantation of the content of six miles square was granted April 6, 1733 and laid out to the north and east of Northfield. This plantation was first called Earlington but the "E" was soon dropped and it now constitutes

in part the town of Winchester. One of the stipulations of the grant required the proprietors to build a road 12 feet wide from Lunenburg to Northfield and maintain a public house for travelers on said road midway between the two towns. This road crossed the northwest corner of what was soon to be the township of Warwick.

The same month saw similar grants made for a township at Paquoig on the Millers River which was later named Athol, and another on the upper Ashuelot River, now the city of Keene, New Hampshire.

Prior to 1740 Massachusetts claimed its northern boundary as fixed by the charter given by the King in 1692 to be as far north as the present town of Charlestown, New Hampshire, and extended east to the Merrimack River. New Hampshire on the other hand claimed the boundary was about 26 miles south of this. The matter was a source of dispute between the two colonies for nearly 50 years and finally the decision was referred to the King. At that time the government of Massachusetts was out of favor with His Majesty and he showed his displeasure by fixing the boundary more than 40 miles south of the line claimed by Massachusetts and thus 14 miles further south than New Hampshire had claimed. During these years many settlers had located in this disputed area and many townships had been granted by Massachusetts, the legality of which was now in question. Most of the proprietors remained in possession of their land and their ownership was eventually confirmed by New Hampshire, but the resentments and recriminations lasted many years.

2

GARDNER'S CANADA, 1735-1748

From 1734 to 1736 a number of Canada Townships, as they were called, were granted. These were given to the survivors or descendants of men who had taken part in the disastrous expedition to Canada under Sir William Phipps in 1690. In all there were twelve of these townships granted, and four in one group

were made on June 19, 1735. (A&R, Vol. XII, p. 142) Thus begins the history of Warwick, Guilford, Vermont, Ashburnham and Winchendon.

Since the almost forgotten unrewarded services of the members of that expedition, that now after 45 years was only a feeble claim against the Province, proved to be an infinitesimal legacy to their descendants, the proprietors of these grants, surely we owe it to them to preserve their story.

When war broke out between France and England in 1690 an expedition consisting of 36 ships and an army of some 2,500 men under the command of Sir William Phipps was sent from Boston with the object of capturing Quebec. Phipps was born in Pemaquid, Maine in 1631, one of 26 children by the same father and mother. He is described as dull of intellect, rudely educated, egotistical, superstitious and headstrong, totally unfitted to be a leader in civil or military affairs. In 1684 he was successful in recovering a treasure from a sunken ship in the Bahamas amounting to $1,400,000. The King, whose treasury received the lion's share, rewarded him with knighthood and $75,000 and appointed him High Sheriff of New England. With these as his qualifications for leader of a military expedition he sailed for Canada with his army of Massachusetts provincials.

His fleet appeared before the city of Quebec without warning, to the great consternation of the French. But the energetic and capable French commander sent far and wide for reinforcements while Phipps dallied, held councils of war and planned his campaign. Quebec consisted of the lower town along the river banks and the upper town on a high elevation where artillery commanded the river below. The army was to land and assault the upper town from the rear while the fleet bombarded the fortress. The French reinforcements arrived before the assault took place and the bombardment began before the troops were in position to attack. The English fire fell short while the French guns riddled the fleet. When the army finally attacked, it suffered heavy casualties from the fire of the French riflemen.

The attack was suspended and when smallpox broke out among Phipps's command he decided to go back home. Great was the

rejoicing among the Canadians as the heretics patched up their ships and sailed away. Phipps returned to Boston crestfallen late in November, and one by one his battered and weatherbeaten ships came straggling after him. Some did not arrive until February and four never returned. Over 200 men died on the trip home of smallpox and fever.

In Boston and throughout the colonies all was dismay and gloom. The Puritan bowed before "this awful frown of God," and searched his conscience for the sin that had brought upon him so stern a chastisement. Massachusetts, already impoverished, found itself in desperate straits. The war, instead of paying for itself, had burdened the colony with a debt of 50,000 pounds. Soldiers and sailors clamoured for their pay, and the colony for the first time in its history was forced to issue a paper currency which quickly depreciated in value. To redeem this currency taxation was severely increased in spite of widespread poverty and distress.

If the blundering Phipps had made a well-executed assault immediately following his arrival before Quebec it is highly probable that he would have been successful. Without doubt all of Canada would have fallen under English control, and the course of history in America would be completely different. But Canada remained in French possession for 73 years of almost continuous strife until Wolfe succeeded in 1760 where Phipps had failed.

The little town of Roxbury and Brookline had raised a company of some 60 men under the command of Captain Andrew Gardner and all of these men with the exception of one, Samuel Newell, were lost in the expedition. In 1945 Theodore F. Jones, Professor of History at New York University, wrote an article on the roster of this company which was published in the records of the New England Historic Genealogical Register. He gives a list of the original grantees of Gardner's Canada and the relationship each bore to a member of the Roxbury Company; also all the genealogical data of the latter which invariably end with the words "died in Canada."

On December 4, 1734 the House of Representatives received a petition from "Shubael Sever, Samuel Newell, Thomas Gard-

ner and sundry others of the towns of Roxbury and Brookline, for themselves, who are the representatives of the company in the public service in the Canada expedition, anno 1690, under the command of the late Captain Andrew Gardner, which consisted of sixty men, who were all lost in the expedition except the petitioner Newell." The petition prayed that "in consideration of the misfortunes arisen to the families of the deceased — that they may obtain a grant of six miles square for a township." Three other similar petitions were subsequently received and on June 4, 1735 the House voted that "four several tracts of land for townships, each of the content of six miles square be laid out in suitable places in the western parts of this province, and that the whole of each town be laid out into sixty three equal shares, one of which to be for the first settled minister, one for the use of the ministry and one for the school. and that on the other sixty shares in each town there be sixty settlers admitted; and in the admission thereof preference to be given to the petitioners such as are the descendants of the officers and soldiers who served in the expedition — in as much as the officers and soldiers were great sufferers and underwent uncommon hardships.

"Voted that this province be at the sole charge of laying out the said four townships in a regular manner, and of admitting the settlers; that the settlers and grantees be and hereby are obliged to bring forward the settlement in a regular and defensible manner, as the situation and circumstances of the places will admit of; and that in the following manner, viz: That they be on the granted premises respectively and have each of them a house of eighteen feet square and seven feet stud at the least, that each right or grant have six acres of land brought to and plowed or brought to English grass and fitted for mowing, That they respectively settle in each plantation or township a learned orthdox minister and build a convenient meeting house for the public worship of God in each township. The whole of these conditions to be duly complied with within five years from the confirmation of the plats." (A&R, Vol. XII, p. 142).

A committee of three men, John Bowles, Esq., and John Metcalf from the House of Representatives, and William Dudley

from the Governor's Council were appointed "for laying out the township and admitting the settlers aforesaid, who shall take bond of each grantee to the value of twenty pounds to the province treasurer for the respective grantees fulfillment of their grant; each lot as aforesaid to be entitled to draw future divisions in equal proportion in the township or plantation. . . in case any of the grantees shall neglect or delay to fulfill the terms of this grant such person or persons shall forfeit to the province all his or their right and interest in the land hereby granted." (A&R Vol. XII, pp. 192-193)

This grant was typical of the many issued by the legislature during this period both as to area, number of grantees, conditions imposed and penalties threatened for nonfulfillment. It shows the deep religious feeling of the times and the importance placed on the church as the cornerstone of the township. The conditions imposed discouraged those who might have accepted the grant with no idea of actually settling. Workers, not drones, were wanted.

The township assigned to Newell and company was laid out and surveyed by Nathaniel Kellogg of Hadley and on June 15, 1736 the tract of land containing 23,045 acres, exclusive of the three small grants previously made in the area, was confirmed by the General Court. The bounds were described as follows: "Viz. Westerly on Northfield and Province land (now Erving), east partly on province Land (now Royalston) and partly on Paquaonge (now Athol); North partly on Arlington (now Winchester, N.H.) and partly on Province land (now Richmond, N.H.), south on Province land (now Orange); beginning at the Northfield east bounds about eighty rods north of the road to Lunenburg and running east 1940 perch (rods) to a heap of stones; from thence south 1950 perch to a heap of stones in Paquaonge north bounds; thence west 179 perch to Paquaonge northwest corner thence south 256 perch in Paquaonge, west bounds to a small maple tree with stones; thence west 1545 perch to a stake and stones thence north 7 Deg 30 Min West 660 perch to Northfield south east corner, the same course in the whole 2265 perch to a heap of stones." (A & R,Vol. XII, p. 273)

As has been previously mentioned when the dispute between New Hampshire and Massachusetts over its boundary was settled in 1740 it was found that the new State line cut diagonally across the north boundary of the grant. This resulted in a loss of a triangular piece of land to the town of Richmond of 138 acres, and a similar piece was taken from Winchester containing 1199 acres.

The only alteration in the area of the town took place in 1783 when the southeast corner was set off to be included in the newly created District of Orange.

Two weeks after the "Plat" or township had been confirmed the House of Representatives ordered the proprietors to meet, give their bond and "chuse a Moderator, Proprietor's Clerk and a committee to lay out their home lots." (A & R, Vol. XII, p. 287)

The first meeting was at the home of James Jarvis in Roxbury on September 22, 1736. The Honorable Colonel William Dudley, the member of the Governor's Council appointed by His Excellency to the committee in charge of the township, was in attendance to represent the General Court and to assist the proprietors in their undertaking. Dudley was the son of Joseph Dudley who had served as governor of the Province of Massachusetts Bay from 1702-1715. He was a resident of Roxbury and held many positions of trust in the province. At once he bought out the rights of three proprietors and continued active in the settlement, serving as proprietors' clerk and treasurer from this first meeting until his death on August 5, 1743.

Under his guidance Captain Sharpe of Brookline was elected Moderator and the proprietors then chose a committee consisting of Robert Sharpe, Samuel Davis of Oxford and Gershom Davis of Cambridge to hire a surveyor to assist them in laying out the home lots to consist of not less than 50 acres of land and not more than 60. Each proprietor was assessed 20 shillings to pay for this expense and the committee was urged to "use their utmost endeavors that Mr. Kellogg, the surveyor, be ready to lay out the said Home Lotts in the first opening of the Spring."

While no formal action was taken, the grantees referred to

themselves in the Proprietors' Records as the proprietors of "Gardner's Canada Township," thus honoring Captain Andrew Gardner, commander of the company of soldiers from Roxbury and Brookline and the expedition to Canada of which they were a part. However beginning in 1760 the proprietors' meetings were called in the name of Roxbury or Gardner's Canada and this continued until the township was incorporated under the name of Warwick.

The committee reported back to the proprietors that their task had been accomplished and on Oct. 24, 1737 they met to draw their lots by chance. Doubtless they received for the first time a fairly accurate description of the features of the township and it must have been discouraging to many.

It can be safely assumed that the committee accompanied by Nathan Kellogg, the surveyor, took advantage of Grace Mountain to view the township as far as the eye could see and listened to Kellogg, the man who had run its bounds and who was most familiar with it, as he described its features. Mount Grace, as it is generally called, is a roughly shaped area like a right angle triangle covering about one and a half square miles and rising in the northwest corner of the town to an elevation of 1617 feet. The apex of the triangle is to the south with the east side running due north, the west side running northwest and the base running northeast.

Today the demands of our civilization have caused the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to erect an observation tower at the highest point on the mountain. This is not to aid in warning of the approach of human enemies, once so prevalent, but to spot and report fire which at certain seasons of the year is an ever-present danger. One can climb the iron stairs to the observation platform and on a clear day see for miles in all directions. From this vantage point let us attempt to describe both the scene that met the eyes of the committee over 200 years ago, and the town of Warwick as it exists today.

From the summit of the mountain the committee would have looked over the most thoroughly mountainous town in Franklin County. A study of the topographical maps made by the govern-

ment quickly shows the rugged nature of the land. Innumerable hills, many of considerable height, have been spattered liberally in all directions by the hand of the Creator with no apparent plan or pattern in mind. To the southeast a glimpse of Hastings Pond a mile and a half away can be had and directly south at a distance of two miles Moores Pond can be seen. From the pond the valley leading toward it widens out to provide a strip of low comparatively level land for three miles.

Looking toward the north from Mount Grace the hills and mountains of New Hampshire rise in the distance. Beginning at the eastern foot of the mountain an open valley, appropriately called Sunny Valley, extends northward to the town of Winchester.

To the east and southeast one can see hills and hills upon hills. Most prominent are Whipple and Mallard hills near the Richmond town line, and Ball Hill in the extreme northeast corner of Warwick. Further to the south lies Bliss Hill on the Royalston town line and Temple Hill, once part of Warwick but now in the town of Orange. Along the Orange and Warwick town line, making a natural boundary, are Beech, Pitt, Fall and Hockanum hills.

To the northwest of Mount Grace are Flower Hill and Bolster Hill, and to the west are the hills of Northfield. A mile southwest of Mount Grace is Shepardson Hill and further south and west of Moores Pond lies Chestnut Hill.

Brooks drain the hillsides and run in all directions gradually mingling with others, increasing in size until they eventually enter three rivers. Kidder and Mountain brooks drain the north central part of the town to merge into Mirey Brook and flow through Sunny Valley north to the Ashuelot River in New Hampshire. The Northfield Brook and its numerous tributaries drain most of the northwest quarter, and flow northwest to become known as Mill Brook as it crosses Northfield to enter the Connecticut River. The west branch of Tully Brook rises in the northeastern corner to flow south, passing through Sheomet Pond and continuing on until it meets the east branch in Athol and then enters the Millers River. Again from the north central area Black and

Rum brooks enter Gales Pond from which Gale Brook emerges to be joined by Hedge Brook from Hastings Pond. Gale Brook finds its way through Brush Valley to Wheelers Pond where it changes its name again to Orcutt Brook as it emerges from the pond to continue flowing south across the town of Orange to Millers River. From the village, the southern slope of Mount Grace and both sides of the valley through which it flows south, is Grace Brook which feeds Moores Pond. The overflow from Moores Pond creates Darling Brook which is augmented by the waters of several small streams until it joins Moss Brook from the southwest edge of the township and enters Harris Pond. This once covered approximately 50 acres of land but when a dam at the lower end was washed out in 1887 its size diminished to a few acres. (The State Department of Natural Resources is planning to restore the dam in the near future and develop the area for recreational purposes.) Moss Brook flowing south through the valley enters the Millers River at the village of Wendell Depot.

We look down the southeast slope of the mountain and see the village of Warwick with its scattering of white buildings. The church with its tall spire catches the eye as it stands on the most prominent spot at the top of a hill, easily seen from all directions. Directly across the road, painted gray, is the one-story three-room schoolhouse. Behind the school is the playground dedicated as the Winfred Fellows Memorial Field in honor of a boy killed in World War II. Just to the right of the church we see the handsome new building that houses the Warwick Fire Department.

In common with all New England towns roads are named after the town to which they lead. And so we catch a glimpse of the Orange road leading south up the hill past the church, the school and the fire station. It descends gradually for half a mile as it passes a dozen or more houses, disappears momentarily in a valley and then ascends cemetery hill. Passing the neatly kept attractive cemetery to its right it turns slightly left and disappears through the woods over the brow of the hill as it continues in a southerly direction to the town of Orange.

The bell in the church steeple begins to toll as the hands in

the clock below it point to the hour. Children pour out of the school to the waiting buses that will take them to their homes.

The first car rolls down the hill past the church, the general store on the left, the town park, the town fountain, the millstone monument and the library on the right hand side of the Winchester road as it is now called. This road, a continuation of the Orange road, is the most heavily traveled road in town and is officially designated as Route 78. The car continues due north down a long grade for half a mile. Then it disappears down a deep winding gorge with the road running beside Mountain Brook, first on one side and then on the other. Passing the State picnic and recreational park it continues on to the north end of the town.

Back at the schoolhouse a second car filled with children follows the first one down the hill a few rods and then turns right and follows the Athol road, passing the town hall, the Warwick Inn, the Metcalf Memorial Chapel and numerous houses as it travels east. Half a mile from the village the old Winchester road enters from the north but the car continues on east, then makes a hairpin turn to the south and then north around a deep ravine. As it makes the turn it passes the North Orange or Gale road that runs south to that village. After traveling north 100 rods the bus turns east again, crosses Rum and Black brooks and reaches Mayo's Four Corners. Here a road lying north and south crosses the Athol road. The south highway ascends Hastings Heights and continues to North Orange. The highway to the north would take one to Richmond, New Hampshire, if one's car survived the trip. The crossing of these two roads is known as Mayo's Corners. The Athol road continues east over a rise and turns southeast toward the village of Tully. At the turn of the road a dirt road known as the old Royalston road forks off toward the east, but no one would go to Royalston knowingly on this road except by ox-cart.

The third school bus carries the children to their homes in the southwestern part of the town mainly along the Wendell road. The Northfield road begins at the general store and skirts along the southern end and the western base of Mount Grace; it then

takes a northwest course and, after leaving the mountain behind, it follows Northfield Brook to the town line. As it turns around the south end of the mountain the Wendell road branches off and runs south to Wendell Depot. Two more roads branch off the Northfield road. The first is the White Road going west over Shepardson Hill and eventually turning north, which returns to meet the Northfield road again. The second is known as Flower Hill Road and swings to the north around Mount Grace to meet the Winchester road near the Winchester town line.

The Wendell road as it approaches and passes Moores Pond has three roads meet it on its west side: Chestnut Hill, Shepardson and Wilson roads. Nearing the southern part of the town, Hockanum Road runs east to connect with the Orange road from Warwick at Brush Valley. At Harris Pond in the southwest corner of the town, the Quarry road from the southeast corner of Northfield, together with the road from the State Park at Laurel Lake, join the Wendell road from the west.

Thus are described the main highways of Warwick that are in constant use. There are many dead-end and connecting roads of secondary importance. And of course miles of abandoned roads, some nearly impossible to follow; nature has retaken possession of what man has deserted. Many of these trails through the wilderness were once the main arteries of transportation and will be mentioned when warranted.

We are fortunate that the town still has several of the sheepskin maps made by Kellogg, showing the plan of the layout of four of the divisions of lots and a few of the natural features of the town. With the aid of these maps and the government topographical map of today a map has been compiled showing the location of these lots as accurately as possible. Only two roads are indicated on the border of the township, but their location within the borders are not shown. One crosses the extreme northwest corner of the township and is called the Lunenburg road. This is the road built from Northfield to Lunenburg in 1734 by the proprietors of the Winchester grant, as a condition for their receiving the grant. The second is the road to "Pequaongue" (Athol). The oldest map indicates where this road crosses the

eastern town line near the southeast corner and again where it crosses the north town line and continues to Winchester.

Northfield was now a well established community with several industries in operation on a small scale, and here most of the few necessities of life could be obtained. Reverend Benjamin Doolittle supplied ministerial services and also engaged in an extensive medical and surgical practice.

One of the conditions imposed on the proprietors of the Arlington grant was that they must have 40 families settled within two years. In 1739 they petitioned the House of Representatives to be incorporated as a town, stating that it was "completely filled with inhabitants who have built a convenient meeting house and settled an orthodox minister yet labour under divers inconveniences and difficulties for want of a power to exercise town privileges." As a result the plantation was incorporated as a town with the name of Winchester on June 16, 1739. (Prov. Laws, Vol. II, p. 990)

Thus it is evident that these two communities could be of considerable assistance to the early settlers of Gardner's Canada, and this fact doubtless had some effect on the decision of the committee as to where the home lots were to be located. Also it was desirable to have these lots laid out as compactly as possible for mutual defense and assistance. High, dry land was preferable because it was easier to defend and roads could be cleared and built with a minimum of labor. Swamps, of which there were many, were avoided for obvious reasons.

Consequently the committee began its labors along the Northfield line. Beginning approximately where the Flagg and Quarry roads meet, they laid out three rows of lots, numbering one to 26, extending north and covering all of Chestnut Hill. Lots 27 and 28 were north of the village on the east slope of Mount Grace. Lots 29 to 35 were located between Moores Pond and Hastings Pond, and from the southern end of Moores Pond north to the foot of cemetery hill. Route 78 runs through Lots 32 to 35, from Arland Day's home to the Dresser home. Lots 41 to 47 lie along both sides of the old Winchester road, beginning at the foot of the hill north of the Athol road and going over the hill to Rob-

bins Road. The Stevens Old Red House is on Lot 45. Edwin Gillespie owns most of Lot 48 and Roy Felton Lot 49 which started at the foot of Felton Hill. Then starting about 50 rods north of the Royalston road, the old road from Athol to Winchester runs across the center of Lots 50 to 62, as far north as the Whipple homestead.

One week after the home lots had been drawn, the proprietors met again October 31, 1737 and chose Deacon Davis and Ebenezer Case to hire surveyors to lay out the second division of lots consisting of 150 acres, "and that it be done this fall or as soon as possible." (Prop. Rec.) No time was lost and on December 26 the proprietors met to draw these lots which varied in size from 100 to 150 acres according to the quality of the land.

Most of these second division lots lay to the south and east of Moores and Hastings ponds, extending east to the Royalston line. The area set off to the district of Orange in 1783 consists entirely of second division lots, plus lots 1 to 9 in the third division of 75 acre lots laid out in 1762.

In spite of the haste shown to lay out and draw the second division of lots and thus clear the way for the owners to begin the settlement, very little was accomplished in this direction in the spring and summer of 1738. The venture was not one to be undertaken without careful preparation, and without doubt the obstacles to be overcome and the hardships to be faced discouraged some. Many of the grantees never had any intention of actually leaving homes and means of livelihood and had applied for this bounty only because they were eligible. To sell their land and reap a profit was their only motive. There is no record of a proprietors' meeting until September 20th and then it appears that William Dudley, the Governor's Councilor who had been appointed to assist the Proprietors, called them together.

Under his leadership as moderator the problems that were to be met were discussed. As a result a committee was chosen consisting of Dudley, Samuel Davis and Captain Edward White for the purpose of "finding the nearest way to the township and to agree with some person to make the same passable." Also they were "to receive proposals from any for the erection of

a sawmill." Dudley, Joseph Heath, Esquire, Captain Samuel Stevens, Deacon Benjamin White and John Seaver were authorized to dispose of any lots whose proprietor neglected or refused to pay assessments levied upon them. This committee continued to function under the title of the Standing Committee. The descendants of Captain Gardner's soldiers had become widely scattered in the 45 years that followed the Canada expedition. Only about 20 were still residents of Roxbury and Brookline, and the remainder found it difficult, if not impossible, to attend the meetings of the proprietors. And so the Standing Committee, all leading citizens from Roxbury and Brookline, became largely responsible for conducting the affairs of the settlement. Later as specific tasks had to be performed in the settlement, special committees were chosen for each task. These committees usually included men who were settlers but not necessarily proprietors.

The following March, 1738 the committee reported a suitable road had been cleared to the township. The proprietors now decided encouragement should be offered to the first settlers, and a bounty of six pounds was voted to be paid to the first 10 settlers who would erect dwelling houses before the first day of January. Dudley, Joseph Heath, Robert Sharpe, Samuel Stevens, Samuel Davis, Daniel Weld, Thomas Aspinwall, William Merean, Daniel Dana and John Seaver signified their intention of collecting this bounty. The following year the records show that six houses had been built, and their owners received the bounty. However who these first settlers were is not stated. However we find the first recorded birth in the town records is that of Lydia Rice, daughter of Absalon and Elizabeth Rice, born November 18, 1740. Thus to Absalon Rice and his wife goes the honor of proving their claim as among the first settlers in Gardner's Canada by the birth of their daughter.

At the meeting on March 26, 1739, Deacon Davis was asked to "mark out a convenient way from Pequag across this township to Northfield." The Rights of three delinquent proprietors who had failed to pay the assessments levied against them were sold at a public auction September 10, 1740 to Captain James

Jarvis. The average price paid was 34 pounds, but the assessments cut this sum in half. Thus we are shown the value placed upon a grantee's right and the heavy costs already to be met by the proprietors before the settlement had hardly begun.

The proprietors did not meet again for two and a half years. Apparently but little progress had been made in the interval. Dudley, who had been the prime leader in the enterprise, died and Captain Joseph Weld and Lieutenant Thomas Aspinwall took the places of Dudley and Deacon Benjamin White on the Standing Committee. Davis reported that he had surveyed the second proposed road to be built across the south end of the township and he suggested two sites for the erection of a sawmill. However rumors of war with France were prevailing and so further action was postponed. (Prop. Rec.)

Third French and Indian War, 1744-1749

An interval now occurs in the proprietors' records until January 7, 1749, and for an explanation we turn to colonial histories. France's colony in America was a single unit under complete control by the French government. It had energetically extended its sphere of influence as far west as the headwaters of the Mississippi and down the Kennebec and Connecticut rivers and Champlain valley. In 1731 they had erected Fort St. Frederick at what later became Crown Point on Lake Champlain, which gave them control of this entire region. On the other hand the English colonies were rivals, jealous of each other, continually quarreling over boundaries and with little cooperation among them toward a defense against their common enemy.

The most visible evidence of French designs was the erection of Fort Louisburg on Cape Breton Island. This fort was a direct threat to the New England fishermen, and provided a safe refuge for French warships and merchant shipping. France declared war March 15, 1744, but it was not until the end of May that the news reached the settlers in Gardner's Canada.

Northfield immediately began preparations for its defense. Four forts, or mounts as they were called, were erected at stra-

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tegic points. The town became a depot for military supplies and soldiers. Fort Dummer at the southeast corner of Brattleboro was repaired and manned. Several blockhouses had recently been built along the Connecticut River as far north as the fort called Number Four at Charlestown, New Hampshire. To the south and east of Gardner's Canada the townships of New Salem and Pequoiag (Athol) erected forts for the protection and refuge of their inhabitants. The Athol fort was located on the hill to the south of the present village of North Orange. Winchester, to the north of us, had some 44 settled families at this time, and we can only estimate that Gardner's Canada could not have had more than a dozen families well scattered and in no condition to defend themselves.

Now it was literally every family for itself. Little or no help could be expected from others, for all were in constant fear of attack from roving bands of Indians and French. It was the height of folly to remain and risk the lives of their loved ones, and so one by one the settlers packed their few possessions and abandoned their cabins, knowing when and if they returned they would find only ashes to show for their labors.

The remainder of the year 1744 was one of intense preparation and it was free of any attacks from Canada. In the spring of 1745 Major Seth Pomeroy of Northampton recruited a company of men in the Connecticut valley towns and led them in the expedition against the French Fortress Louisburg. This expedition was proposed by Governor Shirley of Massachusetts and commanded by Sir William Pepperell. Composed entirely of New England troops, assisted by an English naval force under Commodore Warren, the expedition succeeded in capturing the fort to the great delight of the colony. Heartened by this signal victory the colonies continued their preparations for the attacks they knew were to come shortly.

These attacks began in the summer of 1745 in the Connecticut valley and continued unabated through 1746. There are innumerable accounts of ambuscades laid for the unwary, of men attacked working in the fields or driving their cattle to or from the pastures. No one dared to leave their homes unarmed, and etern-

al vigilance was the price of one's life. Frequent attacks were made on forts and blockhouses. Fort Number Four, the most northern outpost, successfully repulsed a siege of two days and then was ordered abandoned as impossible to supply and defend. Fort Massachusetts at Adams was besieged by a force of 800 French and Indians and was forced to surrender. The loss of these two strong defenses left the valley more open to infiltration by roving bands, and there was serious talk that Northfield might once more be abandoned.

At Pequoiag (Athol) the fort erected on the hill near the edge of Gardner's Canada became the refuge of a number of families, one of which was that of Ezekiel Wallingford. Ezekiel's cornfield was only 100 yards from the fort. Hearing sounds from the cornfield he went out to investigate and was surrounded by Indians who shot and scalped him. This incident was a good illustration of ever-present danger and the fate that awaited the unwary.

The situation was made more serious by the refusal of the State of New Hampshire to aid in the defense of the valley. Still aggravated by the border dispute with Massachusetts in 1740 the State felt little obligation to defend an area that had been settled by another. They argued that the forts had been built for the protection of Massachusetts and should be maintained by that state.

In the spring of 1747 word was received that France was preparing a large army of French and Indians. This was to be sent in bands to raid the settlements in the colonies with orders to kill, burn and destroy. Winchester which had already experienced a raid by 30 Indians the previous summer, was now abandoned due to the withdrawal of the garrison that had been assigned to defend it. Fort Number Four was reoccupied and almost immediately attacked March 30th by a large force of the enemy. The attack was ferocious but the defense made by the garrison under Captain Phineas Stevens was determined, and after three days of constant fighting the assault was given up. Part of this force then turned toward Northfield where they waylaid and killed two men in the north end of the town. The following day

they burned the abandoned cabins at Winchester and the two Ashuelot townships (Hinsdale and Keene). (T & S., Northfield, p. 250)

The attacks and raids continued on into the fall, and only winter brought a lull in the fighting. Spring brought a renewal of warfare with all its horrors. Finally on August 4th word was received that a treaty of peace between France and England was being negotiated. It was signed in October, and gradually quiet settled over the Connecticut valley.

Thus very briefly is told the story of the stirring events that had brought to a halt the settling of Gardner's Canada. But the question remained, was it now safe or wise for the proprietors to proceed? Nothing had been settled! The great fort at Louisburg, so proudly captured by New England men, was returned to Canada to the disgust and exasperation of the province. Everything remained as it was before, Canada with its Indian allies still threatening the existence of the colonies. Was all the bloodshed, destruction of property, the poverty, the cost of war to be in vain? Had they but known the answer, that in only a few years war would once more erupt to be fought to the final decision! Perhaps some of those who did not return to their empty clearings in the wilderness realized it was a phony peace, but many did return.

3

ROXBURY CANADA, 1749-1762

NOW LET US RETURN to the Proprietors' Book of Records. We find the first meeting since 1743 was held January 7, 1749. No comments were made regarding the lost five years. The proprietors prepared to repair the damage done. Captain Joseph Weld, Deacon Samuel Davis and Lieutenant Daniel Weld were sent with instructions to hire Seth Field, surveyor and leading citizen of Northfield, to renew the lines of the first and second divisions of lots as they were originally run. They were to choose a site for a sawmill and agree with the owner of the land to have

the mill built during the summer for the benefit of the proprietors, the latter assuming one half of the cost. All things considered it was quite an order. "In order to encourage a speedy settlement" a bounty of 20 pounds (old tenor) was voted to be given to the "first ten proprietors who shall actually move on the premises and begin the settlement next summer." Ten pounds were to be given at the end of the first year, five pounds at the end of the second and third years.

The meeting was adjourned to the 27th of June but three blank pages in the Proprietors' Records give no clue as to what took place during the next two years. Apparently the General Court finally put pressure on the Proprietors to resettle the township. This resulted in a meeting being held on March 27, 1751. The first item of business was to vote to increase the bounty to 30 pounds and the settler receiving it no longer need be a proprietor. Moreover "if any other good and able men" would settle in the township they would not only receive the bounty but 50 acres of land laid out by a sworn surveyor adjacent to one of the original home lots.

No report is made by the committee as to what progress had been made. From this fact and the desperate efforts of the proprietors to encourage settlers it is apparent that great difficulty was being found in enticing men to face the dangers that were still all too evident.

In the State archives at Boston we find preserved the original petition made to the General Court in answer to their inquiry about the settlement by the proprietors' clerk four days after the meeting. He tells their troubles as follows: "And the said Grantees notwithstanding the grant proved to be mountainous and very rocky were at great expense to lay out the first and second division of lotts in order to a settlement and had built several houses there on, but the war coming on soon after they were discouraged in making further progress at that time, and as soon as the late peace commenced they renewed their resolution of settling their lotts and soon found that the time of the war and the frequent burning of those woods had defaced the lines of their lotts that they were obliged to run and mark them out anew

which they did the last summer in order to settle them as soon as possible and are now going upon them. . .and have likewise given great encouragement in the public prints to any (that are not grantees) that will settle with them ye year currant. As the said Capt. Gardner's company was principally raised in Roxbury and Brookline and all lost saving the above Samuel Newell and as said grant (though it may be made a settlement with great charge and industry) has the name of a very poor township of land, the grantees can have no temptation to delay settlement with design to sell out and thereby make advantage to themselves as may have been the case with some other grantees, they therefore humbly rely on the favorable indulgence of the Honorable Court. By order of said grantees, Roxbury, March 31, 1751. Joseph Heath, Proprietors' Clerk."

The General Court gave an extension of the time allowed the Proprietors to fulfill the conditions of the original grant. But with the ending of hostilities it was anxious to encourage all the settlements to become firmly established before the inevitable showdown with Canada should break out.

The only remaining large area of land not included in any township grant lying south of Northfield and Gardner's Canada on both sides of the Millers River was sold to a group of men in 1751. They in turn sold the land to the Honorable John Erving the following year. Eventually that part of Erving's Grant south of the river was to become part of the town of Wendell. The strip lying along the north side of the river became the township of Erving.

Late in the fall of 1752 a meeting of the proprietors was held at Alexander Thorp's Inn in Roxbury but so few attended that no action was taken. However at a meeting February 13, 1753 the grantees found that no sawmill could be built on the previous plan and they voted 50 pounds (lawful money) to be spent to build one. A bounty of two pounds, thirteen shillings and four pence in lawful money was to be given the first 60 proprietors who would settle in the township without delay.

It should be explained that the province was passing through a financial crisis during this period. From 1690 the province

(when faced with great expenditures usually due to war) had issued Bills of Credit. These were to be paid from future taxation and if peace had prevailed it might have been possible. But another expensive war followed, and more bills were issued, payable at the end of two years, then at the end of three years, then at more distant times. The bills soon began to decrease in value and the hard money for which it was a cheap substitute disappeared from the country. In 1743 the province issued new bills of credit, called new tenor, and fixed their value at six shillings and eight pence for an ounce of silver. When England reimbursed the colony for the cost of the Louisburg expedition in gold and silver it became possible for the province to redeem the bills and once more have a solid currency. Bills prior to 1743 were known as old tenor and had declined to one tenth the value of the new tenor or "lawful money," so the value of the new bounty offered the settlers in 1753 was equal in value to the 30 pounds (old tenor) previously given.

Now 18 years after the grant had been given the settlement began to move rapidly toward fulfillment. During the remainder of the year 1753 the proprietors met frequently. New names appear on the records as settlers (few of whom were original proprietors) began to be authorized by the grantees to perform various tasks designed to advance the settlement. Ebenezer Locke was given the contract for the erection of a sawmill. It was agreed to "lay out and clear a highway from the Royalshire line to the Northfield line" provided those townships would build roads to meet it. Soon after a second road was authorized to go from the sawmill at the pond southeast to Pequag and to meet the road from Royalshire to Northfield.

Twenty shillings (lawful money) was levied on each proprietor for the purpose of erecting a meeting house 35 feet long, 30 feet wide and 19 feet post. Thomas Aspinwall, William Merean and Ebenezer Seaver were entrusted to "appoint the spott" and have charge of its erection. As a result of their efforts Perry and Mason agreed to build the frame of the meeting house for 26 pounds, 13 shillings and four pence, and would have it ready to raise October 1. The proprietors would defray the cost of the raising entertainment.

Captain Caleb Dana submitted a bill of six pounds, 12 shillings and eight pence for his services in laying out and clearing highways. The proprietors decided that "Dana hath exceeded his trust and greatly overcharged for his time." He was given 45 shillings and accepted it.

Back in April, 1752 the General Court had passed an act that ordered all grants that had not fulfilled the terms of their grants at the end of 18 months to be sold to the highest bidder. Doubtless it was this action that had spurred the proprietors to the furious efforts which began at that time. Over two years had passed and the conditions of the grant were far from having been met. Faced with the danger of losing all they had invested, the proprietors asked Captain Joseph Williams, Ebenezer Pierpont and Captain Samuel Stevens to apply to the General Court for additional time. As a result on November 12, 1754 a year's extension was granted. (A & R, Vol. XV, p. 216)

The treaty of peace between France and England now proved, as many had prophesied, a delusion for the settlers. It was well known that the French were carrying on their colonization energetically. They had continued advancing westward and south down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. However Colonel William Johnson of New York had become very influential with the Indian tribes in that state and had succeeded in winning their loyalty for the English. This knowledge lulled the province of Massachusetts and the people in the Connecticut valley to a belief that future battlegrounds would be remote. The four mounts or small forts at Northfield had been torn down, considered no longer necessary. Many families had settled in the new townships to the north on both sides of the Connecticut River. With no warning the storm broke in August, 1754, when a band of Indians captured the Johnson family at Charlestown, New Hampshire.

Last French and Indian War, 1755-1763

The settlers flocked to the protection of the towns, the blockhouses and forts already in existence. Northfield at once rebuilt the mounts, and additional blockhouses and forts were built at

strategic points in many townships. The towns above the border of Massachusetts now held grants from New Hampshire but that state still refused to assist in their defense and Massachusetts was obliged to garrison the forts here for her own protection.

Hostile Indians were considered by the majority of the colonists as no better than wild animals to be ruthlessly exterminated. Massachusetts offered a bounty of 50 pounds for all male Indian prisoners delivered in Boston; for every scalp of such Indians 40 pounds; for every female prisoner of any age or boy under twelve 20 pounds, and for every scalp of such female or boy 20 pounds. (T&S, Northfield, p. 286)

At Gardner's Canada Samuel Locke had finally commenced work erecting the sawmill, and Perry and Mason had cut from 20 to 30 logs and were having them shaped for the framework of the meeting house when men appeared from neighboring Northfield. They were "advised to leave the place if they had any regard for their lives, for the Indians had done mischief at Number Four (Charlestown) and in divers places." So the work was abandoned and they "came away."

The proprietors in their records showed no inclination to abandon the settlement. An extension of time to May 1, 1755 was given Perry and Mason which must have amused them. Apparently subsequent events convinced the proprietors of the seriousness of the situation because the next meeting was not held until March 10, 1756.

In the meantime England decided to take the offensive. Four expeditions were planned to capture Fort Duquesne on the Ohio, Fort Niagara on Lake Ontario, Crown Point on Lake Champlain and Nova Scotia where the French inhabitants were a threat to the colonies. The first two expeditions were dismal failures. Colonel William Johnson was made a general and given command of an army of colonial troops and his Indian allies assembled at Albany. His army reached the south end of Lake George in August, 1755, where they encountered a combined French and Indian army commanded by Baron Dieskau. The French were defeated and forced to retreat. Johnson was wounded and fearing an ambush decided not to press a pursuit. After building

Fort William Henry at the end of Lake George he disbanded his army. The Nova Scotia expedition was partly successful and resulted in the deportation of the Acadians but no attempt was made to capture Louisburg.

In 1755 the French began constructing a fort at Ticonderoga at the lower end of Lake Champlain. This was strengthened and enlarged the following year by General Montcalm now in command of the French forces. From here, in the summer of 1757, he led an army of 9,000 men, including 1,000 Indians, and besieged Fort William Henry. The fort with its garrison of about 2,400 men under Colonel Munroe was forced to surrender after a gallant defense. In the terms of surrender Montcalm agreed to allow the unarmed garrison to march south to Fort Edward. The drunken Indian allies fell upon the column of refugees, slaughtered many, and after taking many more prisoners deserted Montcalm and returned to Canada. Montcalm destroyed Fort William Henry and returned to Ticonderoga.

Captain John Burke and his company of rangers composed of men from Northfield and the neighboring towns were among the garrison, and the news of the disaster caused consternation in the valley.

Back in Roxbury the proprietors had seen another year pass by with nothing accomplished. Lieutenant Aspinwall, a member of the committee to build the meeting house, reported that the frame had finally been made ready, and a number of proprietors, settlers and the carpenters had assembled to raise it. The site that had been selected was at the southeast corner of the present cemetery, but now an argument arose as many opposed the spot chosen. As a result nothing was done. The proprietors voted to move the site not over 160 rods to the north at the "crotch" where the road from the pond (Hastings) met the road from Royalshire to Northfield.

Locke had made no more progress on the sawmill and asked for another extension of time. Nothing could be done but grant his request. Samuel Scott and Elijah Morse were employed to work on the roads already "cut and marked" and to assist the committee with the meeting house. The frame was successfully

raised April 28, 1756 and it "came well together and appeared to be a good frame of proper dimensions and done workmanlike according to contract."

When Locke was threatened with prosecution for lack of progress on the sawmill he reported that "he had been retarded by reason of the war and drove off when at work by means of the enemy approaching near said township and killing divers persons and captivating others. . .and since being greatly exercised with sickness in his family and burying his daughter and also having his name enlisted in his Majesty's service. . .has retarded his proceedings." He was given an extension of time.

Apparently the proprietors were convinced that under the prevailing conditions a halt must be made and they voted not to raise or spend any more money at that time. A number of the proprietors' rights had been declared delinquent for nonpayment of assessments and were offered for sale. But no one could be found to purchase any, so the sale was deferred.

Perhaps Locke was referring to an incident that had taken place June 7, 1756, only four miles north of Gardner's Canada in the township of Winchester. The heroic and self-sacrificing character of Josiah Foster deserves to be recorded. Moreover it illustrated the ever-present danger these sturdy settlers endured as they strove to build a home for their families in the wilderness. Foster had built his cabin on the side of a hill and on this day he had left his wife and two children to work on building a bridge across nearby Mirey brook. Suddenly he was aroused by the squealing of his pigs and looking toward his cabin he saw a cloud of feathers emerge from the window of the attic as if the feather bed was being ripped apart. He ran toward his house and as he came into the clearing he saw that a group of Indians had captured his family and were preparing to leave. Possibly he could have shot one but that would have meant the instant death of his family. To run and gather neighbors to help would be useless. The Indians would be gone, and if they were pursued, retarded by their captives, they would kill them before they could be overtaken. Experience had taught the settlers that the Indians valued their captives for their ransom value and if they did not

become a burden to their captors, they had a good chance of being redeemed after reaching Canada.

Foster's wife was in poor health and he knew her chances of survival would not be good. There was only one course open to him if he would save his family. He surrendered to the Indians and through the help he was able to give his family they succeeded in reaching Canada, were eventually redeemed and returned to their home on the hillside.

On July 6, 1757 the proprietors met and apparently decided to proceed. Though there were only 13 shillings in the treasury and bills owed amounted to over 13 pounds, they voted to give a bounty of 20 shillings to the first 20 settlers who should appear and settle in the next six months. Four pounds were alloted for the purpose of enclosing the naked skeleton of the meeting house and eight pounds authorized to "fortify Mr. Samuel Scott's house by making a good picketed fort encompassing the same four rods square for the safety of the inhabitants."

The following May, 1758 Joseph Mayo and Ebenezer Seaver were sent to the township to observe the progress made on the meeting house and the fort. They reported that the fort was not sufficient to stand off an enemy and Scott was given until Christmas to complete it. No mention is made in the records regarding the meeting house, probably because there was nothing done.

The plan of the English campaign in 1758 included the conquest of Fort Louisburg and expeditions against Ticonderoga and Fort Duquesne. The first and the last were successful but the second, under General Abercrombie, was a disastrous failure. Blundering "Nabbycrombie" as the colonial troops called him led an army of 15,000 men against Montcalm at Ticonderoga who had only 3,600 men in his command. It was a brilliant victory for France, and colonial hopes were dashed to the ground. This defeat in itself was enough to discourage the progress attempted in little Gardner's Canada, so the proprietors found the same situation on January 10, 1759 as had persisted for 18 months. Locke now turned over his land, his privileges and unfinished sawmill to a Matthias Stone who appears to become Locke's partner in completing the sawmill.

By the following May the progress of the war definitely had turned for the better. Lord Jeffrey Amherst and General James Wolfe had been successful in capturing Louisburg, thus placing a stranglehold on the throat of Canada, the St. Lawrence River. Amherst now was leading an army up the Hudson River valley to capture Ticonderoga and Crown Point. Wolfe was to assault and capture Quebec which he accomplished September 13, 1759. Major Rogers destroyed the Indian nest at St. Francis from which so many raids on the Connecticut valley had originated. Amherst captured Montreal the following year, and France was forced to give up Canada to England. Back in Massachusetts a grateful people named a town in honor of "the soldier of the King" and Amherst College men still sing his praises.

With the way now cleared, the settlement of Gardner's Canada began to make progress once more. The building of a "corn" or grist mill was voted and Joseph Williams, Joseph Mayo and Samuel Scott were sent to the township to pick the spot for the mill, expedite the enclosing of the meeting house and perambulate the township's lines. On January 9, 1760 the meeting of the proprietors of Roxbury Canada, as it was now called, was held at the Inn of Thomas Bell in Roxbury. The committee had decided the "corn" mill should be built near Scott's sawmill. The millpond still remains just south of the Rum Brook road, fifty rods west of the Richmond road. The millstones were removed and placed in the town park in front of the library in 1927.

The meeting house now having been enclosed it was voted on May 21, 1760 to "procure preaching" and 18 pounds was raised for this good cause. Messrs. Israel Omsted, David Ayres and Joshua Bailey "be ye committee." Eight pounds was "allowed out of ye treasury to Mr. Samuel Scott to defray the charge of building ye fort . . . and in consideration of his having been very serviceable in bringing settlers on said township."

The committee "to procure preaching" lost no time. During the summer of 1760 Lemuel Hedge, a young man of 27, a native of the town of Hardwick who had graduated from Harvard College in the class of 1759, began to preach on probation. His services met with general approval and apparently he was satisfied

with the future prospects for a career as minister to this new settlement. At the end of the summer the proprietors met and voted to extend to him a call to the ministry. It was voted to give Mr. Hedge a settlement of 80 pounds and an annual salary of 60 pounds for the next five years. Nine pounds was granted to "defrey the expenses of ye ordination entertainment." David Ayres, Moses Evans, Israel Omsted, Ebenezer Prescott and Amzi Doolittle were chosen a committee of five to "further treat with Mr. Hedge respecting his settlement and to do all that may be needful for the final consumation of his ordination and settlement in case he shall accept." Then it was further voted "they would grant liberty to Mr. Hedge to lay out 100 acres of common land in one piece near the meeting house as he shall choose in lieu of 100 acres of after (second) division land belonging to the first minister's right in said township."

At the same time the committee, with the addition of Joshua Bailey, was to "lay out a tract of land forty rods square around the meeting house for a burying ground, training field and other public uses." As a result of this wise and far-seeing action the citizens of Warwick still own and, we trust, always will retain the Town Common. Today this 40 rod square is about equally divided by the Orange road (Route 78). The eastern half contains the schoolhouse, Fellows Memorial playground and the fire station. The western half contains the Unitarian Church near the north edge and the remainder is wood land. The site of the first cemetery was in the extreme northwest corner.

Reverend Hedge's letter of acceptance was brief, businesslike, and to the point. After accepting the proprietors' offer he adds: "the inhabitants of said township having by subscription made an addition to my settlement and ingaged to find me annually thirty five cords of wood." To "find" meant to supply and deliver to the door. This was a customary procedure in colonial days, but it often became a bone of contention between the minister and his parish. Both the quality and the measurement of the wood usually was vehemently debated by a minister and his supplier with the minister invariably receiving the short end of the bargain. Thirty-five cords of wood today might seem a tremen-

dous amount to consume in one winter, but in those days the open fireplaces in almost every room had voracious appetites and 75 percent of the heat went up the chimney.

The minister chose the 100 acre lot granted to him with good judgment. It very nearly enclosed the town common (just previously laid out) on the north, east and west sides. Today this land contains the heart of the village of Warwick. The store, town park, town hall, Warwick Inn, Congregational Chapel, and the Goldsbury homestead are all below its northern boundary. It included the land on which now are the residences of Howard Anderson, Mrs. Rena Stevens, Maurice Underwood, George Cook, Ralph Holbrook, J. Arthur Francis and extended south nearly to Hastings Pond. It is generally believed that the Francis homestead was built by Reverend Lemuel Hedge shortly after his settlement, but the exact date has not been determined. After the death of Reverend Hedge it became the home of the second minister, Reverend Samuel Reed, and it remained in the Reed family until 1925.

Lemuel Hedge was formally ordained as pastor and the church was organized December 3, 1760, with 26 male members signing the convenant. The list of members consisted of Reverend Lemuel Hedge, Deacon Charles Woods, Deacon Silas Town, David Ayres, Ebenezer Davis, Ephraim Perry, Ebenezer Prescott, David Burnett, John Farrar, Asa Robbins, James Ball, Jeduthan Morse and Amzi Doolittle.

The small meeting house stood on the common close to the south boundary, and at the time was only a shell. Temporary seats were set up for the ordination and served for two years. In the spring of 1761 the building committee was instructed to build a "ministerial pew on either side of the pulpit as the minister shall choose." Apparently they were requested also to secure an appraisal of the cost of completing the building because in the fall of the year 72 pounds was voted for this purpose. Two years after the ordination the proprietors agreed "they would give liberty to any suitable number of persons to build pews and would sell the room that may be needful therefor to the highest bidder." The pews must be built within six months from the time the house

was sealed with boards to the galleries or forfeit the room sold to the successful bidder. The proceeds from this sale went into the proprietory treasury. The proprietors' records indicate that all the money voted to complete the building was not made available. The subject was frequently discussed but it is apparent that when these records end in 1772 the meeting house was still uncompleted. By this time the town had outgrown the building and a new one was built in 1787.

Beginning in 1760 the meetings of the proprietors began to be called in the name of Roxbury Canada although occasionally the name of Gardner was also used. Numerous meetings were held during the next two years. The principal actions taken concerned the building of the meeting house and settlement of the minister. This entailed heavy expenditures and all other suggested activities were voted down. Heavy assessments had been laid on the proprietors and many had lost their enthusiasm for the project. Rights that had been declared delinquent because the owner could not or would not pay the taxes levied upon them were offered for sale at public auction, but there were no bidders. Colonel Joseph Williams bought one right involving about 350 acres of land for four pounds five shillings and eight pence, or six cents an acre. That ended the attempt to sell land.

Frequent complaints were made that people were cutting timber on the common lands, and at first this practice was forbidden. Later Samuel Scott and Israel Omsted were authorized to prosecute such persons. When this produced no results Moses Evans was added to the committee and told to excuse all who came forward and confessed their guilt with a promise to cease; others were to be prosecuted. This committee proved helpless and later another committee was appointed with doubtless no better success.

Two hundred pounds (old tenor) or 26 pounds 13 shillings and four pence (lawful money) had been voted previously to be given Captain David Ayres to build the corn mill on Black Brook. On May 20, 1761 he was given liberty to lay out a 50 acre lot at the site for "pondage and yard room" on condition that he would build the mill and "give bonds to keep the same

in good repare for twenty years after the said mill is built and ready to go." The grist mill was completed during the year and 15 inhabitants certified to the fact "that it was a good mill and would answer the end." Now it was no longer necessary for the settlers to carry their corn and grain to Athol or Northfield to be ground into the all-important corn meal and flour. With two sawmills also in operation it was now possible to obtain sawed lumber and shingles to build more comfortable and pretentious houses.

On November 12, 1761 the proprietors recorded the names of 37 settlers who were occupying 44 rights, giving the numbers of the first division or home lots and the name of the owners. Only six of the settlers owned the lots on which they resided.

The General Court recently had imposed the first tax on the proprietors for the state treasury, and this additional burden was felt to be unjustified. A committee was chosen to petition the Court to abate this tax, stating the heavy expense they had to bear to bring forward the settlement. The committee consisted of the leaders among the proprietors: Colonel Joseph Williams, Lieutenant Thomas Aspinwall and Joseph Mayo. After a delay of three years the request was granted. (A&R, Vol. XVII, pp. 257, 274, 353)

The question of further dividing the remaining common land had been brought up and discussed at previous meetings but the majority felt the time had not arrived. Now however it was voted to authorize George Robbins, Elisha Rich, James Ball and Joshua Bailey to hire a surveyor to lay out two divisions, one (the third) consisting of 75 acre lots and the other to be determined by the number of acres remaining. As a result the fourth division contained 66 acres. The third and fourth divisions were made in 1762. There still remained small parcels of common land scattered all over the town, and a fifth division was made in 1769 averaging 14 acres. A final or sixth division of about two acres each was made in 1771 but no record has been preserved showing the location of the lots in either the fifth or sixth divisions.

The trail from the village to the top of Mount Grace passes through the center of lot 50 in the third division. Warwick has in its possession an old deed showing that this lot was once

owned by the famous patriot doctor and general, Joseph Warren. A close friend and classmate of Reverend Lemuel Hedge, he had bought the land after a visit with his friend in Warwick. President of the Massachusetts Provincial Congress and head of the powerful Committee of Safety and Correspondence, he had been elected Major General of Massachusetts forces by the Congress. Three days later he was killed while fighting as a private in the redoubt on Bunker Hill, June 17, 1775.

These later divisions of land made it possible for the owners to use or sell the land as they wished and thus opened up large areas for settlement. Prior to this time no one could legally settle on this common land. We have records of the settlers on the home lots in 1761 but no mention is made of any on the second division of lots, though there could have been and probably were a few.

Mention was made earlier to Hathorn's Grant or Farm on Flower Hill, made prior to the Gardner's Canada grant. It had been suspected that the area claimed by the owners was far in excess of the acreage called for in the grant. The committee authorized to lay out the third and fourth divisions also were instructed to meet with agents of this grant and survey it to determine the exact size. Joshua Baylie, a member of the committee, was found to be one of the owners of the grant and he was replaced by Asa Robbins. Baylie and Ephraim Brown then represented the owners of Hathorn's Farm. It was found that the area claimed measured 1,985 acres instead of the 1,350 acres granted to them. Finally 635 acres were surrendered from the south end of the disputed territory and sold by the proprietors to Joseph Mayo for 50 pounds at what was called a public vendue or auction. Mayo also was one of those who claimed part ownership in Hathorn's Farm, and seven of the proprietors registered a protest against this action. On September 5, 1764 five of the proprietors of Hathorn's Farm, James Ball, Samuel Ball, Jeduthan Morse, Joseph Mayo and Daniel Bliss met in Warwick and divided the remaining 1,350 acres into nine equal lots to be numbered from the north end. Lot one fell to James Ball; Morse drew two; Samuel Ball, lot three; Daniel Bliss who owned three shares drew lots four, five and six; Simion Blood drew lot seven;

Joseph Mayo, lot eight; and Mathew Wallis, lot nine. Joshua Baylie apparently had sold his claim. The Ball brothers and Jedu-than Morse were settled in the town, but not on the disputed territory. Joseph Mayo, first mentioned in the records of Gard-ner's Canada in 1753, had played a prominent role in its affairs. He became a very large landowner, but there is a question whether he ever settled here. He was the father of six sons and it was his wish that all his sons settle in the township on new land. These sons, Joseph, Benjamin, Caleb, Samuel, Daniel and David are all believed to have done so.

On December 17, 1762 the proprietors met again and voted that an annual tax of one penny an acre should be laid on all land in the proprietors' rights for the next three years in place of assessments previously made as need arose. If the inhabitants would agree to ask the General Court to continue this tax for the alloted time and would assume the obligations now the duty of the proprietors, they would join with the inhabitants in apply-ing to the General Court that they may be incorporated into a town, together with the several farms or grants lying within its boundaries. The farms referred to were the Hathorn, Field and Severance grants. Their owners had escaped the assessments levied on proprietors of Roxbury's Canada for the improvements made in the township which benefited all. Colonel Joseph Will-iams and Captain Caleb Dana were to join with the members chosen by the inhabitants to make the application for incorpora-tion.

4

A TOWN IS BORN, 1763

THE COMBINED EFFORTS of the proprietors' committee and the representatives of the inhabitants were successful on Febru-ary 17, 1763. The General Court passed an act stating:

> Whereas the new plantation called and known by the name of Roxbury Canada together with sundry farms lying there

in and a piece of land lying on the northerly side of said township belonging to this province; the whole bounded west on Northfield, south partly on Ervingshire and partly on Athol, easterly on Royalshire, northerly on the province line, be and hereby is erected into a town by the name of Warwick; and said town be and hereby is invested with all the powers, priviledges and immunities that any of the towns in the province do or may enjoy.

A tax of one penny an acre was approved to be levied and assessed upon all lands that were private property for the ensuing three years on conditions "that said inhabitants shall speedily become oblidged to said reverend pastor for his support in the ministry." (A&R, Vol. IV, p. 604)

Seth Field, Esquire, of Northfield was directed to issue the first warrant calling the inhabitants to meet and choose all necessary town officers, "to manage the affairs of said town and to assess, levy and collect the afore said land tax."

How Warwick received its name cannot be definitely stated. The Honorable Jonathan Blake remarks in his history written in 1831 that its origin is not "now known." It would appear that the town had no voice in the matter and, as was often the case, the choice of the name was either given to or assumed by the governor of the province. It is generally believed that the intent here was to honor Guy, Earl of Warwick, England. He had played a prominent role in the early colonization of NewEngland.

It is well known that the city of Warwick, Rhode Island, was named in this manner. Another possibility might be found in the fact that Elisha Rich, a leading proprietor as early as 1753, was supposed to be descended from Lord Robert Rich, Earl of Warwick. Elisha's four sons, Thomas, Caleb, Nathaniel and Jacob were to be among the most prominent citizens of Warwick from as early as 1771. Whether this family had any connection with the choice of Warwick's name is questionable but quite possible.

The long awaited day designated for the first town meeting finally arrived, May 9, 1763. All the male inhabitants that could possibly take time from their labors assembled at nine o'clock in

the morning at the little meeting house on the common. Seth Field acted as moderator and the following officers were chosen: James Ball, clerk; Moses Evans, Jeduthan Morse and James Ball, selectmen and assessors; Amzi Doolittle, treasurer; Samuel Ball, constable; James Ball, tax collector; Silas Town and Joshua Bailey, wardens; Charles Wood and Joseph Perry, tything men; Israel Olmsted and Moses Leonard, fence viewers; Moses Leonard, Joseph Lawrence and Joseph Goodell, hog reeves; David Barrett, pound-keeper; Ebenezer Davis, field driver; Amos Marsh and Moses Leonard, deer-reeves; Moses Evans, culler of staves, shingles and clap-boards; James Ball, sealer of weights and measures; Moses Leonard, sealer of leather.

Thus we are given the names of the leaders of our infant town at the time of its birth. Deacon James Ball was the first innkeeper of record and it is probable that his inn was where Colonel James Goldsbury later operated his tavern at the southeast corner of the junction of the old Winchester road and Rum Brook Road. This was on the earliest county turnpike from Athol to Northfield. Moses Evans and Amzi Doolittle came to Warwick from Northfield, both having seen service in the late war. Amzi Doolittle was the son of the Reverend Benjamin Doolittle, famous minister and doctor of Northfield. Jeduthan Morse operated and owned the sawmill built by Ebenezer Locke at Moores Pond and lived where the John McKnight home now stands. This pond bore the name of Morse Pond as late as 1830. Moses was the first of the Leonard brothers to come to Warwick, as early as 1760. His brothers Samuel, Jonas, Francis, Noah, John, and his sisters Beulah, Mercy, Lucy and Sarah soon followed. The sisters all married prominent early settlers of Warwick. Their father, Moses, joined his children in 1778. The Leonard name played a prominent role in Warwick until Jonas III, grandson of the third brother, moved from town in 1863.

This first meeting voted to spend 20 pounds on the highways, and wages were set at four shillings a day for a man, two shillings for a yoke of oxen and one shilling for a cart or plough.

As directed by the act of incorporation a committee was chosen to make a formal agreement with the Reverend Hedge as to

his future support. The young minister had become a very popular man. Gifted with a pleasant personality and a large, strong, active body he had entered into the work of the settlement with all the energy at his command. Following his ordination he had begun building his home, and by the first of November it had progressed to the point where he felt he could ask a wife to share it. He returned to Hardwick, his father's home, and married Sarah White, the daughter of the minister there. The arrival of his bride at Roxbury's Canada must have been the occasion for welcoming festivities to be long remembered. The joy of seeing his first-born son the following year was soon changed to sorrow when the baby, Lemuel, Jr., died, as so many newborn infants were wont to do in primitive surroundings. These events brought the minister and his wife close to the hearts of his parish and no doubt the committee was prepared to deal generously with him.

The agreement was as follows:

> That the town will pay to the Rev. Mr. Hedge a salary of sixty pounds annually until such time as there be eighty settled families in said town; and the salary to rise as the families increase, allowing thirteen shillings and four pence to each family: so that when there should be ninety settled families the salary should be sixty-six pounds, thirteen shillings and four pence; and after that allowing four shillings and five pence to a family when they had increased to one hundred and fifty families his salary should be eighty pounds, to be paid in lawful silver money at six shillings and eight pence per ounce of silver.

The town would also deliver at his door annually thirty cords of firewood cut eight feet long. The minister agreed that this proposal was "handsome and generous."

The future now indeed had a very rosy look. New settlers were arriving constantly. The ring of axes felling trees, the rasping sound of saws, the shouts of men, urging on their oxen as they cleared the fallen trees and the rocks from prospective fields, were heard throughout the town.

Neighbors swapped labor with one another to accomplish tasks

too much for one pair of hands and thus became firm friends. All worked from "sunup to sundown" except on the Sabbath and then only the care of the animals was essential.

Today when roaming through the woods one may come upon a cellar hole far removed from any evidence of civilization, proof that homes were built wherever the owner decided on a logical location. First a path would be cut through the woods over the most practical route to the nearest road. Soon the town would be asked to accept it as a town road with the description of the location often including the words "as the way is now trod." As many of these outlying farms were abandoned nature gradually obliterated all signs that showed any road ever existed.

During the early days when the town grew rapidly the town records show many articles asking the inhabitants to vote to accept, or later to discontinue, roads. While the description of these might be of interest to some people today, it does not seem that limited space permits such mention.

The management of town business was a fairly simple affair for the first few years. The support of the minister, the care and completion of the still unfinished meeting house and the modest sum spent on the town roads were the only pressing concerns to be met.

In order that this and future generations may know something about these old town offices once so necessary, a brief description of their duties should be of interest. The duties of the selectmen, assessors, clerk, treasurer and tax collector have not changed materially and doubtless will continue as they are for years to come. Most of the minor offices were created to serve specific purposes pertaining to the common welfare in various periods in our past history. Changes in our mode of living made many unnecessary so eventually they were discontinued.

Among offices found in our early town records are Overseer of Poor, Tithing Man, Highway Surveyor, Hog-reeve, Fence Viewer, Pound Keeper, Field Driver, Deer-reeve, Leather Sealer and Culler of Clapboards and Shingles. As changing times brought changing needs other offices were created for varying periods of time. Today their description provides much of

the information pertaining to many of the customs and activities which were part of the life of our predecessors.

The selectmen invariably acted as overseers of poor as required by law although occasionally the town elected a separate board. Aside from the duty of providing for the care of the town poor they also were authorized to "bind" out the support of minor children either orphaned or unable to be supported by their parents. This consisted of a contract called an indenture made between the overseers and a responsible family who would agree to support the child until it had reached the legal age of 18 years for a girl and 21 years for a boy. The child thus "bound out" was to receive food, clothing, medical attention and an elementary education in return for his services.

"Old Goody Rumble" and her children became town poor in 1764. A detailed account of all care provided for her is recorded in the town minutes, including the arrangements made to indenture or bind out her three daughters. The following year the town voted "ten pounds and eight shillings to be proportioned on the inhabitants according to their invoice to keep Elizabeth Rumble and her child for the space of one year and that the inhabitants shall all have the liberty to keep the said woman and her child their proportion of said rate." (Town Rec.)

The aged or other persons unable to support themselves were customarily placed in the care of people who would agree to support them at the least cost to the town. The care of the unfortunate poor was not to be neglected but any suspected pampering met with opposition. On such occasions the town voted to put out the care of the poor to the lowest bidder and to put them out singly in all cases except for a husband and wife. (Town Rec.)

Province law stated that a family gained legal residence in a town after three months and in case they became paupers they would have to be supported by the town, unless they had been warned by the constable at the direction of the selectmen to leave town. If the family refused to leave after two weeks the constable could remove them to the town where they legally resided. (A&R, Vol. I, p. 68) In 1764 several families were warned

to leave town and the practice was followed occasionally as late as 1774, although only one instance is found where a family was actually removed. Several of these families subsequently became prominent citizens and one man, Josiah Rawson, served the town as selectman for several years.

The tithing man generally has been assumed to be primarily a church officer, required to preserve order on the Sabbath and persuade the reluctant to attend church. Actually province law gave him broad powers on all seven days of the week. He was expected to inspect all public houses such as inns and taverns and enforce laws pertaining to the sale of liquor, gambling and all moral laws, "to present or inform of all idle and disorderly persons, profane cursers or swearers, Sabbath-breakers and the like offenders." (A&R, Vol. I, p. 155) Warwick annually elected two men to this office until 1808. Then the number was reduced to one until 1836 when the office was discontinued.

The care and repair of the town roads was placed in the hands of highway surveyors elected at the annual town meeting. The amount of money voted to be expended on the highways would be assessed on the inhabitants in accordance with the valuation each rated. The town would be divided into districts and each highway surveyor would have charge of a district. The assessors would give him a description of the roads in the district and a list of all the inhabitants residing there with the amount of highway tax each was assessed. A person listed on the surveyor's warrant could work out the tax assessed against him by labor performed by himself or a substitute, or he could pay it in cash.

Three highway surveyors were elected in 1763, but as the town grew and more roads were laid out the number of highway surveyors increased gradually until there were 18 chosen from 1849 to 1866.

In the early days of the settlement of a town the settlers, overworked by the more pressing demands of building their homes and providing the necessities of life, would allow their domestic animals to forage for themselves as much as possible. This practice led to complications as can easily be imagined. The animals were prone to wander where they were not welcome, so laws were

made to control the custom. Swine were the most numerous animals and the most difficult to control, so the province passed a law forbidding swine to go "at large," the owner to be liable to a fine of one shilling for each animal found unrestricted. However, recognizing the hardship this law placed on the early settlers, they added the proviso that if the town so voted swine could go at large if properly yoked and ringed. The yoke was a wooden frame or collar, the size specified by law, to be worn around the neck of the pig to impede its movements and prevent it from going through or under a fence or over a stone wall. They were allowed to graze unyoked from the last day of October until the first day in April, when gardens could not be damaged.

Each town was required to "chuse" annually at least two hog-reeves to enforce the laws. Realizing that the task would be obnoxious and that it would be difficult to persuade anyone to serve, the law stated that anyone chosen who refused to serve would pay a fine of 20 shillings, to the use of the poor, but no one should be forced to serve more often than once in four years. If the town failed to choose any hog-reeves it became the duty of the selectmen to appoint them, and failure to do so would make them liable to a fine of 20 pounds. Province law stated that anyone elected to many of the town offices must accept them unless he was excused by vote of the town, or be liable to a fine.

In order to have a place to keep stray animals until they could be claimed by their owners or sold at auction a small enclosure, called the pound, was built in 1766 at the northeast corner of the town common. A pound-keeper was elected to care for these strays and collect the fees charged the owners. Each farmer cut an indentification mark in the ear of his animals and these "ear marks" were recorded by the town clerk.

An interesting item is found in the record of the town officers elected in 1770. James Ball and Jeduthan Morse had served as selectmen continuously since 1763 and were two of the most prominent men in the town. Job Gilbert had served two years. Doctor Medad Pomeroy had recently moved from Northfield where he was a selectman. The town reelected Ball and Gilbert but replaced Morse with Doctor Pomeroy. But then they elected

all three to the office of hog-reeves, and Gilbert was also chosen pound-keeper. Thus the highest and the lowest offices in town went to the same men. Shortly thereafter Gilbert asked to be relieved of his offices because he was moving from town. The worthy doctor then had the office of pound-keeper added to his "honors" and Morse returned to the board of selectmen.

Fence viewers were chosen to settle disputes between adjacent property owners regarding the responsibilities of erecting boundary fences. Field drivers were charged with collecting and impounding stray animals.

Two men were chosen as field drivers until 1824 and then the town voted to have one in each school district; this practice was followed until 1879 when the number dropped to three. During the past century rarely has there been a call for the services of either the field driver or the fence viewer, although one is still appointed by the selectmen. The pound-keeper office outlived the town pound many years but was discontinued in 1884.

As early as 1690 the province had become alarmed at the indiscriminate killing of deer. A closed season was declared from January 1 to July 1 and a sentence of 40 shillings or 20 days in the work house was imposed for the first offence. (A&R, Vol. III, p. 153) In 1763 a similar law was passed, increasing the fine to five pounds. One half of the fine was to be paid the informer or person securing the conviction of anyone killing a deer in the closed season. Two or more deer-reeves were required to be chosen annually to enforce the deer laws, and if a town neglected to choose such an unpopular officer it would be fined 30 pounds for the use of the county. (A&R, Vol. IV, p. 683) The town elected two until 1785.

Cullers of clapboards and shingles were required to inspect and enforce the laws pertaining to the sale of these commodities. Sealer of Leather had similar duties in regard to the hides of animals. Many industries, as each town acquired them, were regulated in this manner.

At the first town meeting held after the town's incorporation in 1763, after the choice of town officers was made and a committee authorized to arrange the contract for the support of the

minister, only one other item of business was considered as worthy of immediate attention. It was "voted that hogs shall go at large on the common." Each annual town meeting warrant for many years called for a decision on this practice until it was finally voted in the negative in 1790. The office of hog-reeve was finally dropped in 1835.

The tax of one penny per acre, authorized by the province for the three year period following the incorporation of Warwick, brought in 90 pounds, 15 shillings and eight pence in 1763, and the collector was allowed four pounds and ten shillings for assessing and collecting it, or about five percent.

The problem of providing the minister's firewood was solved by the committee in charge assessing a sum against each family. Each member of the committee had a list of names assigned to him and he was obliged to warn these persons to work out their "wood rate," either by supplying their share of the wood or by paying the value in cash to buy it. If anyone refused to comply the constable was to collect the tax as other delinquent taxes were collected. This arrangement soon proved impractical and after a few years the minister was given money to buy his 36 cords of wood.

The province extended the land tax at the request of the town in 1767, and on January 26, 1767 the town voted to review the question of ownership of the home lots, in order to determine who was delinquent in paying this land tax and properly assess future taxes. These delinquent lots were put up at auction and sold to the highest bidder.

We find that the first official census was taken in 1765, and Warwick was found to have 191 inhabitants. Our nearest neighbor, Northfield, had 415. The next census taken in 1776 showed Warwick had increased over four times to 766 and had outstripped Northfield, which had only increased to 580. The explanation lies in the fact that Northfield had long been a well-established town with little cheap land available. Warwick had plenty of cheap land and provided opportunities to establish industries, and skilled professions and trades were in demand. Many of these newcomers came from Northfield. The first Unit-

ed States census taken in 1790 gave Warwick 1246 and Northfield 868 inhabitants. In the next 30 years Warwick remained almost constant while Northfield gained steadily. In 1820 Warwick reached its peak at 1256, but Northfield had passed it with 1584 inhabitants. From then on Warwick's population decreased steadily, while its neighbor gained slightly and generally speaking has continued to hold its own.

The penny tax on land brought barely enough money into the town treasury to pay for the town's obligations. The committee appointed to settle the accounts with the town treasurer reported March 16, 1767 that the sum in the treasury amounted to only one pound and 13 shillings. Despite this fact the following annual meeting in 1768 brought up the question of schools for the first time.

No preparation had been made for a school building and so the town voted ten pounds to support a "moving" school some part of the year. A schoolmaster was to be "hired to teach the school in December, January and February, and the rest of the ten pounds to be laid out in hiring a mistress to keep school in the summer season." The selectmen were "to agree with and employ a schoolmaster and school mistress and to appoint the school wards or places to have the schools kept." It was also voted to ask the General Court for liberty to sell the remainder of the school right that had been stipulated in the original grant in 1735 to be reserved for the support of schools. Approval was granted and the money received from the sale of the school land was used to create the school fund. The interest derived from it was used to aid in supporting the schools.

The selectmen divided the town into four school wards, but in June when the time came to hire a mistress to teach the summer session the question arose as to whether a female was competent or able to perform the task. A special town meeting was called to determine what instructions should be given the selectmen on this vital matter. It was found that a woman was available and willing, but the skeptical citizens voted "that Mrs. Hannah Rawson be employed to keep school but if the major portion of the quarter (school ward) where she keeps object

against her keeping that the selectmen should dismiss her and she is to have four shillings and six pence per week for the time she keeps, her father finding her board."

Josiah Rawson and Timothy Nurse had settled on common land that had not been included in any of the lots laid out and allotted to individuals. Josiah Rawson who once had been warned to leave town was by now a prominent citizen and had already served as town moderator on one occasion. The proprietors had made the fifth division of common land consisting of lots of 14 acres each in 1769, but 106 acres of land remained in small parcels scattered all over town. The proprietors, as their final act, offered to give this land to the town for the project of finishing the meeting house if they would eject Rawson and Nurse from the illegal possession of their land.

Rawson and Nurse refused to move, and when the proprietors asked the town to "risk" the cost of a lawsuit to compel them to move, the town voted on January 13, 1772 "in the negative."

Beginning in 1770 a few persons had asked to be relieved of the ministerial tax assessed against them because they were members of the Baptist denomination. The town had voted to "sink their rates," which abated them. However the assessors continued to assess them, and in 1774 these people instituted a suit against the assessors to force them to discontinue the assessment. The town voted to defend the assessors, and James Ball and Doctor Medad Pomeroy were chosen as agents to defend them. There is no indication that the matter was brought to court, but the question continued to be pressed and was not finally settled until 1777. On December 12, 1774 the names of 28 men are recorded as Baptists and they were granted an exemption from supporting the minister for that year.

During the previous ten years the town had grown rapidly. Each year more roads had been laid out and accepted by the town. The number of highway surveyors had increased to nine. Many new names were appearing in the town records. The town treasury was in a flourishing condition with about 200 pounds available. As a result the practice of loaning money to citizens had begun, and the town held the notes of many prominent men.

In 1774 80 pounds was voted for highways and 24 pounds plus the interest from the school fund was spent on schools. Future prospects looked bright, and to keep out undesirable people the town voted that the selectmen warn all persons not (legal) inhabitants to leave the town.

5

LOYALIST AND YANKEE, 1774-1776

BUSY AS THEY WERE with the pressing daily tasks that kept the inhabitants occupied from sunrise to sunset, they nevertheless were aware and concerned with the increasing difficulties that beset the colonies in their dealings with the mother country. King George III came to the British throne in 1760 with the determination to rule with a firm hand. He chose ministers who would do his bidding and by the lavish bestowal of money and offices he built up in Parliament a majority who supported his aims. Laws were passed designed to bind the British realm closer together. These affected the colonies' trade, currency, courts of justice, legislative assemblies, and above all their ideas of the proper form of taxation.

These measures seemed to the colonies a deliberate attempt to deprive them of the rights which they believed belonged to them as British subjects, and they gradually became convinced that they were being treated as inferior, second class citizens. Without representation in Parliament they bitterly resented these laws in which they had no voice. The determined opposition to the Stamp Act, requiring a revenue stamp on all legal documents, caused it to be repealed. The law forbidding trade with any country except England caused a boycott of English goods and smuggling became rampant. Duties on imported merchandise were collected at the port of entry, and from these duties the salary of the royal governor was paid instead of by the colonial legislature. This made the governor subservient to the Crown. Warrants called Writs of Assistance were given to customs officials allowing them to search private property for smuggled goods.

Governor Bernard called for troops to protect the customs officials, and the treatment of the despised "Lobsters" or "Bloody-backs," as the redcoated troops were called, led to the Boston Massacre on March 5, 1770. The public led by Samuel Adams forced Acting Governor Hutchinson to withdraw the troops. The officer in command of the redcoats who had fired on the mob was tried in court, but John Adams and Josiah Quincy risked their reputations in his defense and secured his acquittal.

The boycott on imports was so effective that most of the duties were repealed because it was ruining English manufactures. However, the King insisted that the tax on tea must be retained as a symbol of England's right to tax colonies.

Actually the tax imposed on the colonies was much smaller than that paid by people in England, and the Parliament believed that the colonies would forego their objections to any tax. But there was a principle involved, "taxation without representation," and this the colonies would not overlook just to obtain cheap tea. The famous Boston Tea Party followed in December, 1773 and the tea was thrown into the harbor. This action enraged Parliament and alienated many of the friends of the colonies in England.

The result was the harsh act closing the port of Boston to all shipping. General Gage replaced Governor Hutchinson and brought an army of 4,000 soldiers with him. It was expected that these and other severe acts would speedily cause Boston to cry for mercy. But not so. The temper of all the colonies was now thoroughly aroused and steps were taken by "Committees of Correspondence and Safety" to inform and arouse the inhabitants and urge the formation of militia companies.

All of these events were well known among the men of Warwick. They became the most common topic of conversation whenever men met in the taverns, the stores, the blacksmith shop, and noon hour recess between the morning and afternoon service at the meeting house. The overwhelming majority were heartily in favor of the steps taken to resist the oppressive and harsh laws of England. True, there were a few men who did not appear to be disturbed at the course taken by King George

and Parliament. They counseled patience and loyalty to the King. There were two sides to every question, and justice would be done if people were not hasty to commit rash deeds that could only make matters hopeless.

Two of the latter group were the minister, Lemuel Hedge, and his close friend, Doctor Medad Pomeroy. Hedge had been exceedingly active in the town. Aside from his ministerial duties he had built a sawmill on the brook that still bears his name. His interest in the education of the youth was shown when he asked and received pemission from the inhabitants to build a schoolhouse on the town common in 1771. No further mention is made in the town records beyond the recorded vote, and so it is doubtful if he actually built the school. However it is evidence that perhaps he may have conducted a private school in his home. Two years after the death of his firstborn son, Lemuel, a second son was born who was named Lemuel also, and then at regular two year intervals five more children joined the family circle.

Doctor Pomeroy had moved to Warwick from Northfield in 1769. A graduate of Yale in the class of 1757, he had set up the practice of medicine in the town where his ancestors had been prominent since 1675. His father was Seth Pomeroy, by trade a blacksmith, but famous as a soldier. He had led a company of men at the capture of Louisburg in 1745. When Colonel Williams and his men had been ambushed in the "bloody morning scout" in 1755 he was the only surviving officer. In 1774 he was Brigadier General of the Massachusetts militia, but when the army was reorganized in 1775 and Congress made him Senior Brigadier General there arose some question of rank and he resigned his commission. When the battle of Bunker Hill began he rushed into action and fought as a private soldier, barely avoiding capture. Too patriotic to remain idle he entered the army again, though now 66 years of age, and died in the service at Peekskill, New York in 1777.

By 1774 his son, Doctor Medad, had become firmly established in Warwick. He had built a home just a few rods north of his friend and neighbor, Parson Hedge, where the Goldsbury homestead now stands. Beside his practice as a doctor he car-

ried on a large farm, employing several men. He had been a selectman of the town, from the year of his arrival, and held many other town offices. Because of their professions, educational advantages, similar interests and close family ties the two were inseparable companions. Both in their early 40's, they often must have mounted their horses and rode about the township visiting the sick, the one to minister to the physical needs of the patient and the other to minister to the spiritual.

The minister was a Tory and admitted the fact. Moreover he had no qualms about saying so publicly. It was his duty not only as a loyal subject of the King but as a minister charged with the welfare of his flock. Now indeed they were sheep, blindly following the rabble rousers to certain doom. The doctor loyally defended his friend's right to express his opinions. Privately he doubtless tried to argue and to attempt to persuade him that the course he was following would lead to his downfall, but to no avail. And so, because of his loyalty to his friends, the doctor too became suspect.

It is interesting to note that many other ministers in the surrounding towns also had similar opinions and the same difficulties to a greater or less degree. Among these were Reverend John Hubbard of Northfield, Reverend Samuel Kendall of New Salem, Reverend Whitney of Petersham, Reverend Abram Hill of Shutesbury, Reverend Jonathan Ashley of Deerfield and Reverend Micha Lawrence of Winchester, New Hampshire.

On August 30, 1774 Constable Petty posted a warrant on the meeting house door "in his Majesty's name" notifying the inhabitants to meet:

> To take into consideration several papers sent to the town of Warwick from the town of Boston and from Committees of Correspondence and see if the town will act anything respecting those papers or on any thing else relating to the public difficulties that this Province labours under at this day.
> To see if the town will make a grant of the sum desired to defray the charges of the Committee of Congress.

At two o'clock in the afternoon of September 5, at the same hour that the delegates to the first Continental Congress were

assembled in Philadelphia, the men of Warwick met at the meeting house. After listening to the reading of the papers from Boston and the actions requested, they discussed the issues with intense feeling and eloquence. Then they voted to grant the sum of eight shillings as requested, as the town's share of the expense of John and Samuel Adams, delegates sent to Philadelphia. They further voted "to get two barrels of powder and led and flints for a town stock."

To place themselves firmly on record they then voted

> To adhere strictly to our Charter Rights and privileges and to defend them to the utmost of our capacity. And that we will be in readiness that if our Brethhren at Boston or elsewhere shall be Distressed by the troops sent here to force a Compliance to the unconstitutional and oppressive acts of the British Parliament and shall give us notice that we will Repair to their Relief forthwith. Voted to choose a Captain, Lieutenant and Ensign and that they Inlist fifty men in the town to be at a minutes warning to go if called for the Relief of our Brethren in any part of the province.

Samuel Williams was chosen captain; James Ball, lieutenant; Amzi Doolittle, ensign. And the expenses of the company were to be borne by the town.

Two weeks later the town voted to send Captain Samuel Williams and Josiah Pomeroy as delegates to a congress called to meet in Northampton, and a week later Captain Williams was sent to represent the town in the provincial congress to be held at Concord.

November 7 a town meeting was held to hear the reports of their delegates to the county and provincial congresses. Each delegate to Northampton received two shillings a day for four days, plus five shillings for expenses and five shillings for the "journey of my horse." When we know that two shillings a day was less than the rate paid for labor on the town highways, we realize the delegates were extremely modest in their bill.

Now the town voted to have two companies, a militia company and an alarm list company. The former was to consist of able bodied men 44 years of age and under. The Alarm Company

was composed of men from 45 to 60. They were expected to keep themselves armed and equipped but were only required to turn out for inspection once a year, unless ordered out by the state authorities. The Militia Company was reorganized with Captain Williams still in command, Peter Proctor, First Lieutenant, Reuben Petty Second Lieutenant, and Thomas Rich, Ensign.

On December 12, 1774 the town voted that the tax collector should pay the province tax to Henry Gardner of Stowe, who had been chosen by the Provincial Congress in defiance of the treasurer appointed by the royal governor.

Captain Williams was sent to the Provincial Congress held at Cambridge, February 1, 1775, and again to sessions held in May and July.

The results of the annual town election March 6 showed that a revolution on a small scale had taken place in Warwick. The preceding year Doctor Pomeroy had been elected moderator, selectman, assessor, treasurer and sealer of weights and measures. James Ball had served as town clerk continuously from 1763, and selectman and assessor with the exception of two years, as well as many other minor offices. Both lost all their town offices. A Committee of Inspection was elected to cooperate with the provincial Committee of Correspondence and Inspection. Reuben Petty was chairman and Seth Peck, Josiah Pomeroy, Thomas Rich and Amos Marsh were the other members. In May a Committee of Correspondence was created and this consisted of David Buckman, Jonathan Woodward and Josiah Rawson.

On March 14th an item appears in the town accounts showing John Alden and David Cobb received 10 shillings 8 pence for running lead into bullets for the town's stock of ammunition and for going for and returning the moulds.

When the news of the battle at Lexington and Concord reached Warwick on the morning of April 20, 1775, word was sent all over town. Before night fell the Minute Men of Warwick had assembled at the meeting house. Here they were joined by 26 men from Northfield under the command of Captain Eldad Wright. Lieutenant Thomas Rich led the Warwick con-

tingent composed of Sergeant Joseph Mayo, Sergeant Abraham Barnes,* Corporal Seth Peck, Corporal Henry Burnet,* Daniel Whitney,* John Whiting, Samuel Denny, William Pitcher, Jotham Merriam, Isaac Burnet, William Burnet, Ashahel Newton, Simeon Stearns,* Stephen Gould, Francis Leonard,* Wilder Stevens,* Jonathan Gale,* Caleb Rich, Peter Ripley, Gove Stephens, John Mayo, Jedidiah Gould, Samuel Griffiths, William Bradley and Joseph Allen.

They found that there was no prospect of immediate fighting and the siege of Boston had begun. It was time for the spring planting back home and they could ill afford to remain idle, so some returned after three weeks, while others remained a month.

But now the die had been cast, blood had been shed and any loyal sentiments for the King and England would no longer be tolerated. The Committees of Correspondence of Athol, Northfield and Warwick held a joint meeting June 12 and 13 and considered the conduct of Reverend Hedge among others. He was summoned to appear before them for a hearing. He refused to do so and instead sent a letter stating his political convictions. At the same time he wrote to his friend who now was president of the Provincial Congress and chairman of the all powerful Provincial Committee of Correspondence. From the records of the Worcester Society of Antiquities we copy portions of his long letter to Doctor Joseph Warren:

> Sir: The miseries and calamities into which our country has fallen by reason of our political disputes is the reason for my troubling you with this letter. You are placed at the head of our Provincial Council and must, I presume, know what is the sense of your body in respect to those persons who cannot think favorably of the measures generally gone into by the country in order to obtain a redress of grievances and therefore are commonly called Tories. . .I must acknowledge myself to be one of that denomination which of consequence has rendered me obnoxious to my countrymen. . .suspected of being an enemy of his country, though a truer friend and well wisher I presume to say is not to be found in it. (He explains

*Denotes buried in Warwick Cemetery.

the Committee of Correspondence has called him to account but he refused to appear fearing wrangling, hard reflections if not blows. Instead he writes to his old friend.) I freely own, sir, I am not a friend to the measures presented. I never thought it was best under our disadvantageous situation to take up arms against the parent state to fight against the King, and the consequences of civil war fill my mind with horror nor can I think we would be succeeded in our attempt. (He has no thought of opposing by force but will continue to speak his sentiments freely) . . . observing the rules of candor, decency, and charity. No cause that is good can suffer from such an examination.

If Dr. Warren thinks it would be advisable he would retire to Boston but he wants to remain in Warwick. He requested an answer by the bearer of his letter, Colonel Samuel Williams.

According to tradition this letter or a similar one was found on the body of Doctor Warren after he was killed at Bunker Hill on June 17. Now the doctor could no longer advise or aid his old friend.

As a result of a letter sent to the committees of Athol, Northfield and Warwick by Hedge, the committee sent their recommendations to the selectmen stating that Hedge claimed "Parliament had a right to tax the Collonies as much as they saw fit." His letter appears "so Contradictory and absurd we thought not worth to inlarge upon it. . .We can view him in no other light than a bitter enemy of his country's freedom. . . Agreeable to the advice of congress we recommend to the inhabitants of Warwick to disarm and confine him, by order of the Committee, Samuel Smith, Chairman."

As a result a town meeting was called for July 13 "To see if the town will take into consideration the present difficulties that subsist between us as a people and ye Rev. Hedge." The friends of the minister rallied to his support and requested the following article to be placed in the warrant: "To see if the town will take into consideration the request of a number of inhabitants requesting the dismission of all or any of the Committee of Correspondence."

Reverend Hedge was present at this meeting and he, with others, entered their protest against the Baptists acting upon the articles quoted. (For the past two years this group had opposed paying the ministerial tax for the support of the church.)

We can only imagine the scene that ensued. The record of the meeting reads merely:

> Voted that the inhabitants do concur with the resolves and recommendations of the Committees of Correspondence of Athol, Northfield and Warwick to disarm and confine the Reverend Mr. Hedge to the town of Warwick without a permitt from the Committee of Correspondence of said towns. Voted that the town choose eleven men as a committee to treat with the Rev. Mr. Hedge to come into or agree upon some plan in order to accommodate the present difficulties that subsist between the people and the Rev. Mr. Hedge. Voted and chose Amos Marsh, Ezra Conant, Col. Samuel Williams, Capt. Peter Proctor, Moses Leonard, Jonathan Woodward, Jeduthan Morse, Abram Barnes, Samuel Shearman, Benj. Conant. The eleventh man was not chosen by reason of a miscount.

From the Worcester Society of Antiquities record (Vol. IX) we are told the vote to disarm and confine was 55 Yea and 45 Nay, and each name registered. James Ball and Doctor Pomeroy head the list supporting the pastor and also included are Shearman, Captain Proctor, Ezra Conant, Barnes, Leonard and Benjamin Conant. Marsh and Morse opposed with Woodward and Williams unrecorded.

During the spring of 1775 Doctor Pomeroy had passed through a very difficult and painful period. His father, General Seth Pomeroy, had been in Cambridge and Watertown in his capacity as a delegate to the Provincial Congress and as an officer in the militia. There was no doubt in the mind of the doctor that his father had heard of his son's fall from grace and that his political beliefs were questioned. To set the record straight with his father he sent the following letter:

> Honored Sir:
>
> Never did I put my pen to paper upon so melancholy an occasion. The controversy between Great Britain and the colo-

nies has arrived to that pitch, that it must now be decided by the length of the sword (and I pray God the cause of equity may prevail). I can truly say I hate all oppression and tyranny and am a real friend to the cause of liberty, and you, sir, have my constant prayers for the restoration and inspiration of it in your important station and may the same God who has preserved your life and covered your head in the days of battle heretofor, now give his guardian angels the charge of you that no evil come near you, and may your important life be preserved and may you see the cause of liberty prevail over hateful tyranny, and peace and good order restored (which I know you are a true friend of) and that we may all sit peacefully under our vines and fig trees.

As much of a Tory as I have the character of, you have my ardent wishes for success. I am ready with heart and hand to assist in the attempt to regain our wonted or lost privileges. Altho I might have the unhappiness to differ from you in some things, yet in the principle matter of dispute we were agreed.

Sir, I beg you to write me a line by the first opportunity and if you will send me a permit I will come (God willing) and see you and if there is any iniquity (political I mean) in me then slay me.

Honored Sir, I am with all dutiful respect your son and servant. Medad Pomeroy

P.S. My wife presents her duty. If my brothers are with you my love and wishes to them.

Warwick, May 2, 1775. in great haste.

Shortly thereafter he visited his father and returned home. On June 13, the day following the receipt of the recommendations of the Committee of Correspondence regarding Hedge, he worte again:

By Col. Williams I have a safe conveyance of a letter to you. I have heard nothing from you since we parted at Headquarters. At my return home I found my affairs in the farming way very weak, my hired men going into the army and I now have only one lad with me. I think at present it will not be best for me to join the army; altho I have a desire for it. I believe I should enjoy myself much better with you than

shall at home; we are not the most peaceable at Warwick owing as I believe to a very few zealots whose zeal is not founded upon honest principles (I believe the bearer can give you a most particular account . . .)
Sir, May God direct all your councils and prosper and bless all your righteous attempts for the restoration of our privileges and in His own time restore order. peace, and good government to an oppressed people is the sincere prayer, of Honored Sir. your obedient son and servant
N.B. My wife presents her duty to you. Medad Pomeroy

On July 13 the adjourned town meeting was called to order to hear the report of the committee that met with Reverend Hedge and to complete the action on the remainder of the warrant. The committe reported:

> Mr. Hedge proposes that he will upon ye town's rescinding the vote to disarm and confine him to ye said town that he will pledge his honour that he will not influence or prejudice the minds of ye people against ye common cause which ye country is engaged in, and then will join with the town in three proposals, that is to refer the present difficulties that subsists between ye town and Mr. Hedge, viz., to leave it to ye General Assembly of this province now sitting at Watertown or to a mutual council or to any set of good judicious men that ye town and Mr. Hedge shall agree upon.

The motion to accept this proposal and rescind the former vote was lost "by a vast majority." An attempt to dismiss Josiah Rawson from the Committee of Correspondence was defeated and then four new members were added, namely Seth Peck, Jeduthan Morse, Daniel Gale and Savel Metcalf. An attempt was made in September to dismiss Mr. Hedge from his ministerial office and when this failed by a "vast majority" after "long debate," a second attempt to rescind the vote passed at the annual meeting to raise and pay his salary was also lost. The minority entered their protest against the vote but upon what grounds is not stated. At the annual town meeting in 1776 the articles to raise the minister's salary and provide his firewood were passed over without any provision being made. The last mention of

Mr. Hedge in the town records is found February 2, 1777, when the town agreed to pay Lemuel Hedge 18 shillings for "keeping and sweeping the meeting house from March 1, 1775 to September 1, 1776." It is probable that Hedge continued to serve as minister until that date.

Apparently his attitude, or at least his presence, continued to irritate some of the inhabitants because it is known that he suffered persecution that must have wounded his spirit severely. We have evidence that many acts of vandalism were committed to annoy him. Finally a group of men seized him with the avowed purpose of taking him to Northampton. Friends rescued him before he had reached Northfield, and shortly after this he left town and went to his father's home in Hardwick. The statement is made that, broken in spirit, he soon became ill and died October 15, 1777.

Apparently he requested that he be buried in the town to which he had devoted his life. On the day on which Burgoyne was surrendering his army to General Gates at Saratoga the body of Lemuel Hedge was brought back to the meeting house he had presided over for 16 years. Here occurred a dramatic scene as Reverend Bunker Gay of Hinsdale, another Harvard classmate and staunch friend, arose to deliver the customary funeral oration. It was printed and distributed, and as we read the yellowed pages we learn much of the life and thoughts that governed the minds of people in those disturbed and trying times. It should be quoted but its great length and rambling oratorical style prevent it.

His text "Be Ye Also Ready?" deals first with the great loss suffered by the town, his family, his friends, and warns all to prepare for their own death. "In the future life after death only Heaven or Hell awaits us. The life we lead on earth determines our eternal abiding place." He eulogizes his dead friend and defends his right to freedom of speech. He condemns the "very shameful and abusive treatment" Hedge endured because of his political sentiments as unChristian. He turns to his brother clergymen and alludes to the fact that many of them also have been driven from their pulpits and the people "have in several

places as it were, killed the prophets and stoned such as were sent unto themselves. And how long any of us shall be permitted to retain either our office or our life is a great uncertainty."

And now we can see him as he points his finger at his congregation and says,

> Is it not greatly to be feared that there are some among you who would be ready to say in your hearts: Why, this is no dreadful thing, it is good enough for the rascal; he was a damned Tory and is only gone to receive the due rewards for his deeds. Lastly I would inquire will not wrath, hatred, malice, envy and revenge, defamatory and lying, cursing and reviling and such like against whomsoever they are indulged and practiced, effectually fit you for the infernal regions. Oh, God, that we were wise, that we understood these things, that we would consider our latter ends and turn our hearts to wisdom before it is too late. Grant this, O God, for Jesus sake, Amen.

One can easily find his grave in the center of the oldest section of the cemetery on the hillside. Only his name remains legible on the horizontal marble slab held up by six brick piers. On either side lie the graves of his two closest friends, Deacon James Ball and Doctor Medad Pomeroy. The inscription on the Reverend's stone has been entirely obliterated by years of exposure to nature's elements but it once read:

> In private life he was cheerful, exemplary and benevolent. In his ministerial character faithful, solemn and instructive. In full belief of the truths he preached to others he fell asleep in Jesus with the Christian hope of rising again in eternal life.

6

CRITICAL YEARS, 1776-1780

We have told about the response Warwick made to the call from Lexington and Concord. Several men enlisted in the army that besieged the British in Boston. Among them we find John Mayo, Abijah Adams, Joseph Alden, James Kelton and Benjamin Simonds. However as far as we can determine none of these were engaged in the battle of Bunker Hill.

In the fall and winter of 1775 two expeditions were sent to capture Quebec under the commands of General Montgomery and Colonel Arnold. They failed in the attempt, but in the spring of 1776 a second army was raised and advanced by way of Lake Champlain and down the Richelieu and St. Lawrence Rivers to Quebec. A company of men was recruited in Northfield and the surrounding towns, and under Captain Thomas Alexander of Northfield joined this expedition. In the Northfield Public Library we find the original enlistment record signed by six men from Warwick with the following agreement:

> We the subscribers do hereby severally inlist Ourselves into the service of the United American Colonies until the first day of January next if the service should require it. And each of us do engage to furnish and carry with us into the service aforesaid a good effective Fire Arm and Blanket; (also a good Bayonet, Cartridge Pouch and a Hatchet or Tomahawk, or Cutting Sword if possible;) and we severally consent to be formed into a Regiment under the Command of such Field Officers, Captains and Subalterns as are or may be commissioned by the American Congress. And when so formed we engage to march under said Officers into Canada with the utmost Expedition. And we further agree during the time aforesaid to be subject to such Generals and other Officers as are or shall be appointed; and to be under such Regulations in every Respect as are provided for the American Army.

Dated the 16th day of February, 1776. (Signed) John Ball, Jeduthan Morse, Samuel Marsh, Ephraim Town, Asa Burton, Silas Town, Jr.

With high hopes for success the army approached Quebec only to find that England was reinforcing the city with a large fleet of warships and thousands of soldiers. But the greatest enemy to be faced was smallpox. Over half of the American force fell ill and General Thomas, the commander, died. The English closely pursued the retreating Americans and defeated them at Three Rivers. The story of the retreat up the Richelieu River to Chamblee and then to St. Johns and finally the return to Crown Point and Ticonderoga is one of the most tragic episodes in the history of our country. Struggling to transport their equipment, supplies and the sick and wounded in small boats against the current of the river, they left the graves of their dead comrades all along the trail.

Captain Alexander kept a diary of the trip and he records the death of Samuel Marsh, 17 years old, the son of Amos Marsh, on June 17 at Chamblee and when Ticonderoga had been reached and home was almost in sight, Jeduthan Morse died on September 18, age 46 years.

The story of Jeduthan Morse is a saga of the spirit that activated the settlers of Warwick. Piecing the story together from many items we find in the town and proprietors' records that he came to Warwick as early as 1758, married Mercy, the daughter of Moses Leonard, and built his home near the southwest corner of Moores Pond. He owned Lot 8 in the first division and was one of the proprietors of Hathorn Farm. He operated the sawmill first built by Ebenezer Locke. Active in church and town affairs he had been elected selectman continuously from 1760 to 1772. Intently opposed to the acts of King George that led to the revolution, he became a leader in agitating the colonial cause and was an opponent of Reverend Hedge. A member of the all powerful Committee of Correspondence, Inspection and Safety, and the father of eight children, it seems astonishing that he would drop all his activities and enlist as a private in the army.

Doubtless his intense patriotism prevented him from taking refuge in his age and town or family obligations. He insisted on sharing the dangers and hardships he urged on others, and so his bones now rest on the shores of Lake Champlain.

When Morse died, Asa Burton and Silas Town were given their discharge and returned home to tell the sad story of their adventures. John Ball remained in the Continental Army and was with General Washington at Morristown, New Jersey.. At the request of Washington the company remained 15 days beyond the expiration of their enlistment period and then returned home.

The last town meeting called in His Majesty's name was the annual meeting held March 11, 1776. Five men were elected as selectmen, Amos Marsh, David Cobb, Seth Peck, Amzi Doolittle and David Bucknum. Chosen for the Committee of Correspondence, Inspection and Safety were Josiah Pomeroy, Josiah Rawson, David Gale, Thomas Rich, Reuben Petty, Elijah Whitney and Joseph Goodell. No outstanding matters of interest were acted upon, the meeting being concerned with customary town business. But in May at a meeting called in the name of the government and the people of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, Lieutenant Thomas Rich was sent as representative to the General Assembly. Marsh, Rawson and Petty were chosen to give Rich his instructions. The town also voted to accept the resolves sent to them by the Suffolk County Committee for their consideration, instructed the clerk to write them "on the town book" and included them in the instructions. We quote them in part because they best tell the principles and conditions that so deeply concerned them, and some of which still concern us today.

First: That you will represent us as true and loyal subjects to the power now in the hands of the people of America, and that you do endeavor that no acts be passed encroaching on the liberties or in any measure invading the rights of the people.

Second: That you grant all supplies necessary for the safety of America under her distressing circumstances; and that you are not extravagant in your grants to those who may be employed in the service of the Colony; at the same time trusting

that every true friend to his country will be willing to serve in any place where he may be wanted, for a reasonable reward.

Third: That you tolerate all persuasions on account of their religious sentiments, without giving one the advantage of the other either in their persons or their properties.

Fourth: That all such laws as in any degree infringe on the liberties of the people be made void. In particular that of a person having twenty pounds ratable estate to qualify him to vote in town affairs, by reason of which so great a majority as two-thirds of the freeholders of this town are prohibited voting in town affairs, although they pay the major part of the taxes hereby raised, which is frequently the case in new-settled towns. There are other things that are a burden, such as these: going sixty miles for a license to keep a tavern, and recording Deeds, all of which may be done in every town, or in sundry places in the County, greatly to the advantage of the towns lying in the outside of the Counties.

Fifth: As also, paying the Representatives by their own towns, which might be more equitably done by the Province, a great hardship that a town of forty families should pay as much for legislative power as one that has three hundred families in it; and as we are poor, and hard drove to pay our taxes, everything that is a burden that can be taken off or eased ought to be done.

Sentiment had been steadily growing stronger for many months for a permanent break with Great Britain. Independence was not an act of sudden passion nor the work of any one man. It had been discussed everywhere, at the meeting house, the stores, the shops, the tavern; in fact, wherever two or more men met for any reason. The final action waited only for the voice of the people to be heard. In May the assembly of Massachusetts advised the people in their town meetings to express their sentiments on declaring independence of the Kingdom of Great Britain.

By a strange coincidence July 4, 1776 was the day set for the men of Warwick to make their decision. Little did they dream as they assembled at the meeting house that this day would be celebrated the length and breadth of the land for untold years as the birthday of their country, not because of what

they were doing but because unknown to them Congress was performing a similar act at the same time in Philadelphia.

They too, without a dissenting vote, recorded their names with the town clerk in favor of independence. Six days' time was given to those not present at the meeting to register, and a total of 82 names are inscribed in the town book. In effect they too must have felt they were pledging their life, their property and their sacred honor. However it is too much to claim, as some historians have, that all were in favor of this act. There are several prominent names missing from the list. Of course some were absent from town and no definite conclusions should be drawn.

In October the town assembled to determine if they would approve having the General Assembly and Council draft a State Constitution as requested by those bodies. The town decided it would not delegate this important task to anyone but that the House of Representatives could "make a form of government and send it out to the inhabitants of each town for their inspection and perusal."

Then they chose Amos Marsh, Josiah Rawson and Peter Fisk as a committee to instruct their representative Thomas Rich as to some of the articles they deemed essential for their protection. The instructions state:

> Being fully sensible that it is a matter of the greatest importance, both to the present and future generations, that such a plan be adopted as shall be most free from the seeds of tyranny and have the greatest tendency to preserve the rights and liberties of the people and the most likely to preserve the peace and good order in the State, we therefore beg leave to lay before you the following short hints respecting a form of government, which we apprehend, if adopted, will have a tendency to answer the purpose above mentioned.
>
> First: That there be but one branch in the legislative authority of this State; viz. the representatives from the several towns, with a president or speaker at the head.
>
> Second: That an equal representation may be made and the balance of power properly preserved, let each incorporated

town send one member, and the larger towns not more than four or five and the other towns in equal proportion.

Third: That in making choice of representative every free free male inhabitant, twenty-one years of age, to have the privilege of voting.

Fourth: That in case sufficient evidence appears to a town that their representative or members are guilty of acting contrary to the rights and liberties of the people then to have the privilege at any time in the year to recall him or them and choose anew.

Fifth: That not less than eighty members make a House.

Thus having declared their ideas they awaited the outcome.

The annual town meeting in 1777 was called "in the name of the government and people of the Massachusetts Bay in New England." With Lieutenant Thomas Rich serving as moderator, Amos Marsh was chosen clerk and also selectman. Four more selectmen, Seth Peck, Lieutenant Josiah Pomeroy, Lieutenant Thomas Rich and Lieutenant John Ormsbee were chosen, and the Committee of Correspondence was composed of seven men: Thomas Rich, Josiah Rawson, Joseph Goodell, Josiah Cobb, Henry Burnet, David Whitney and Lieutenant Ormsbee. Amzi Doolittle was chosen treasurer with Jacob Rich and Benjamin Mayo as constables. Thomas Rich was again chosen to represent the town in the General Court.

The year 1777 opened with a dismal outlook for the newly born United States of America. The military situation was at a low ebb. It was well known that an army of soldiers with Tory and Indian allies was poised in Canada awaiting the coming of Spring to advance down the Champlain and Hudson River valley in a plan to cut New England from the other colonies. Washington and his army had been forced to evacuate New York and retreat toward Philadelphia. Sergeant John Ball of Warwick, with the remnant of Captain Thomas Alexander's company left after the disastrous Canadian expedition, had joined Washington on December 1, 1776. They were with him when he turned on his pursuers, crossed the Delaware River Christmas

night and surprised the Hessian troops at Trenton. This spectacular victory had a tremendous effect in arousing the drooping spirits of the colonies. The term of enlistment ended December 31, but Ball and his comrades, at the earnest plea of Washington, remained with the army until it went into winter quarters at Morristown, New Jersey. (T&S, Northfield, p. 328)

In 1776 the militia company in Warwick was increased to two companies as part of the Sixth Hampshire Regiment commanded by Colonel Phineas Wright with Samuel Williams of Warwick as Lieutenant Colonel. Reuben Petty, a veteran of the French and Indian War, was made Captain of the First Company with First Lieutenants Thomas Rich and Josiah Pomeroy and Second Lieutenant John Ormsbee. The following Warwick men served in this company: Samuel Brown, Henry Burnet, Richard Bucknum, Abijah Adams, Mark Moore, Asa Lampson, Peter Fisk, Benjamin Simons Jr. and John Whitney. It is interesting to note that Peter Fisk was 54 years of age. This Company was one of several sent north under command of Lieutenant Colonel Williams in December, 1776 to oppose the expected advance of the British. They were enlisted for a term of three months and returned March 20, 1777, having taken 12 days to travel 240 miles on the homeward trek.

The Second Company was composed of Warwick and Northfield men under the command of Peter Proctor as Captain. Joseph Mayo and Benjamin Conant, both of Warwick, were commissioned First and Second Lieutenants respectively May 7, 1776. The Warwick men in this Company were, as far as can be determined, Sergeants Benjamin Mayo and Daniel Whitney, Privates Alexander Wheelock, Aaron Robbins, Archibald Burnet, Jonathan Moore, Jonathan Gale, John Mallard, John Bucknum, Jonathan Davis, Jonas Leonard, James Kelton, Simeon Stearns, Timothy Wheelock, Charles Wood, David Bucknum and Thomas Kelton.

These two Companies included most of the able-bodied men in town. Apparently it was the plan to have one company on active duty and the other in reserve at home to attend to the pressing daily occupations. The war was now causing increasing

hardships on the people. Spring plowing and planting of seed was being neglected through lack of manpower. Most of the all-important work at home had to be left in the hands of the aged and the women and children. Enlistments were difficult to secure for periods of over three months because the men dared not leave their farms and crops for a longer time. If the hay was not cut and the crops harvested then both their families and their animals might starve.

General Burgoyne and his army advanced from Canada and besieged Fort Ticonderoga July 1. The inadequate garrison under General St. Clair was forced to flee south with Burgoyne in close pursuit. Among these troops at Ticonderoga were Asa Gould, Jonathan Gale and Joseph Goodale of Warwick. The Massachusetts militia was ordered to reinforce the American army at Fort Edward or Fort Ann, the men to serve until the army could be otherwise reinforced, and it was Captain Peter Proctor's company's turn to respond to the call. The company left July 10 and on August 12 they were back home again. (Mass. Soldiers and Sailors, Vol. I, page 27)

Burgoyne sent a detachment of a 1000 men under Colonel Baum to raid southern Vermont for supplies. His force of Germans, Tories and Indians was met a little west of the Vermont border by General Stark with a hastily assembled army, and at the so-called battle of Bennington captured the entire force.

General Gates, in command of the American army, prepared to meet Burgoyne's army at Bemis Heights and sent an urgent call for reinforcements. Now it was Captain Reuben Petty's company's turn and they left Warwick on September 22. It was too late to participate in the first battle fought September 19, but the company had ample time to have been in the second battle on October 7. The two defeats caused Burgoyne to surrender his entire army October 17, 1777, and the following day Petty's company was discharged and hurried home. Petty brought with him a statement from Colonel William Williams certifying that he and 11 men had engaged in the second battle and had been present at the surrender.

Words cannot describe the joy and relief of the people at the news that the threat to their safety had been removed. With the exception of the coast of Rhode Island and Connecticut, where Newport and New London suffered from raids, the remainder of the war was fought in the central and southern States. But New England had to continue to maintain large forces to defend itself.

A serious problem confronting the inhabitants in the inland towns was a drastic shortage of salt due to the blockade instituted by England on our ports which severely hampered its importation. The lack of this vital necessity was chiefly felt in the preservation of meat. Without salt it could not be kept from spoiling. The State soon was made aware of this serious situation, and when a supply was available it was rationed among the towns. Warwick was alloted 46 bushels and Josiah Cobb and Asahel Newton were sent to Boston to transport it to Warwick in August, 1777.

The heavy cost of supporting an army was becoming an increasing burden. To meet this enormous expense the State, which had already advanced large sums to the national Congress, borrowed money and raised taxes and on frequent occasions printed money called bills of credit, payable at some future date. As the State debt increased the value of these bills decreased. In October, 1777, the State passed an act calling in all the issues of State money to be exchanged for treasury notes redeemable in 1782 with six percent interest payable annually. (A&R, Vol. V, p. 784)

In December the selectmen, alarmed at the rising cost of labor and commodities due to the depreciation in the value of money, called a special town meeting, "to take into consideration a late act of the Court in calling in the State money and granting Treasurer's Notes upon interest, or act anything relative to said act. Also to see if the town will take into consideration the late Tax Bill and subscribe some general rule for the assessors to conduct themselves by, or act anything relative to said bill."

As a result of their deliberations the town "voted that if no other method could be adopted then to call in the State money

and put it on interest: that we should have the said money called in and burnt: then run our risk in paying interest for it at a day when money can't be had so easy as at the present day. . .Proposed that the assessors estimate in their invoice the real and personal estate at the rate of silver currancy in the year 1774, and passed in the affirmative."

The State, in a futile attempt to halt the rising prices and prevent owners of vital necessities from holding out for exorbitant profits, passed an act on January 27, 1778 to set and fix prices upon all the necessities of life and the rates to be charged for various types of labor. This act explained the situation that was developing in its preamble, as follows:

> Whereas the avaricious conduct of many persons, by daily adding to the now exorbitant price of every necessary and convenient article of life and increasing the price of labour in general, unless an effective stop be put thereto, will be attended with the most fatal and pernicious consequences, as it not only disheartens and disaffects the soldiers who have nobly entered into the service of their country for the support of the best of causes, and distresses the poorer part of the community by obliging them to give unreasonable prices for those things that are absolutely necessary to their existence but will also be very injurious to the State in general.

The State then issued a long list of articles and services with the prices to be charged for each. The selectmen and the Committee of Safety were required to set prices for articles not enumerated but that were commonly used in their town.

As a result the selectmen and the Committee met at the Inn of Joseph Goodell and carried out the instructions which were entered in the Town Records.

The annual appropriations made to carry on the ordinary business of the town for the year 1778 shows how drastic the decline in the value of money had become. Four hundred pounds was to be raised and expended on the highways where 40 pounds had been raised the previous year. Money was now worth only one tenth of its face value. But rigid economy was practiced when the school appropriation was only increased from 24 to 50 pounds plus the interest from the school fund.

In May two special town meetings were held. Ezra Conant, Jr., Amzi Doolittle and Nathan Hastings were charged with hiring the quota of continental soldiers allotted to the town and to furnish them with the necessary clothing "as cheaply as may be had at the present day." They voted not to send a represntative to the General Court thus saving this expense. The question of ratifying the State Constitution submitted for approval was rejected by a vote of three in favor and 24 against.

A meeting held in October approved the payment of a bounty of 20 pounds for the head of each wolf killed in town. That the wolves were becoming a problem is clearly apparent.

A tradition concerning the depredations of these animals was told and written for publication in 1891. According to this article one David Neville settled in Warwick about a mile and a half north of the village where the State picnic reservation is now located. It was a tough winter and Neville and his family had a hard struggle to survive. He had built a pen to secure his sheep but the wolves had killed them all and the pen was empty. In the dead of winter he traveled across the hills to the Connecticut River to try his luck at catching fish at night through a hole cut in the ice. His luck was good and he had secured a good catch when by the light of the fire he had built on the ice he discovered the aroma of fish he was cooking had attracted a pack of wolves. Throwing a dozen fish in a bag he left as many on the ice to satisfy his unwelcome guests and started for home.

The wolves soon cleaned up the fish he had left and started in pursuit. For four long miles he was forced to walk backward, lighting one flare after another to ward off the wolves and when they came too close he threw them a fish for them to fight over. A mile from home his wife heard his cry for help and instructions telling her to open the sheepfold and place a ladder against the wall to a window in the barn. Staggering into the sheep pen he dropped the last of the fish in the bag and scrambled up the ladder and through the window of the barn while his wife slammed shut the door of the pen, capturing the wolves inside it. Twelve wolves at 20 pounds a head made $1200, which should have paid off the mortgage, bought stock for the farm and set the Nevilles

up in Warwick society. We give the story as it was handed down (probably based on fact) but without doubt it has improved over the years.

Religious Trouble During The Revolution

Following the unfortunate experience with the Reverend Lemuel Hedge the town made no effort to replace him until nearly two years had passed. No reason is known but it is evident that the vacancy could not be filled easily under the uncertain conditions caused by the war. Doubtless the refusal of the Baptists to pay the ministerial tax and the cost of "supporting preaching" was a burden the remainder of the inhabitants were reluctant to assume. Thus, lacking the spiritual guidance provided by a settled minister and with moral standards somewhat disturbed by war, the ground was prepared for a scandal that was to involve many prominent citizens and shake the town to it very foundation.

No mention is to be found in the town records, and the only sources of information are the story as told by Jonathan Blake in his History Of Warwick and a brief mention made by the Reverend Preserved Smith in 1854, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his ordination as the third minister of Warwick.

There is some uncertainty as to the exact time but it seems logical to believe the incident took place shortly before the Reverend Samuel Reed was secured to preach a probationary period in November of 1778. We are told that a man known as Elder Hix came to Warwick and started a supposedly religious movement. Reverend Smith describes it as follows:

> In the early part of Mr. Reed's ministry there were several persons of both sexes some of whom I believe were members of his church who became new-lights and adopted what in modern times (1854) is called the "free-love doctrine." They had reached so great perfection in their own estimation that they were deluded with the idea that it was lawful to have spiritual husbands and wives, which of course led to the exchange of partners. If their religion began in the spirit it ended in the flesh.

Jonathan Blake places the incident before the advent of the Reverend Reed and he relates how Hix and his followers went from house to house preaching and exhorting with a zeal that could hardly have been exceeded by St. Paul himself.

> Their daily and usual occupations were neglected; some of the first characters in town were subject to irresistible grace and exhorted and prayed and admonished each other to flee to the ark of safety; the children and boys, unlearned and untaught could pray with the tongues of men and angels. Much enthusiasm made them mad, sober reason was discarded, and the town was well nigh turned upside down.
>
> When the victims of this delusion (if we may be allowed so mild an expression) were wrought up to the highest pitch, when meek-eyed Charity hoped and believed them to be sincere worshippers of God, the bubble burst, the wolves in sheep's clothing were discovered. Such a scene of infatuation and corruption was brought to light as perhaps never before was witnessed in a Christian land. Who could believe that this monster though a pretended servant of the Most High God had long been guilty of conduct that would disgrace a brothel; and to fill up the measure of his iniquity to the brim, he absconded from the town with a young girl, the miserable dupe of his nefarious wiles and a deluded proselyte to his pretended religion. This girl's name was Doolittle. As soon as the rookery was broken up by the arch demon's decamping Mr. Amos Marsh cleared out with Mrs. Doolittle, the girl's mother; and Mr. Amzi Doolittle, the father of the girl, went off with Mr. Thomas Barber's wife.
>
> The exasperated friends and relations of some of these elopers followed after them, and took Mr. Marsh and Mrs. Doolittle somewhere in the State of New York, brought them back and committed them to jail in Northampton, where they were tried for the crime of adultery and found guilty. They were sentenced to sit on the gallows, pay a fine, and he was ever after to wear the letter "A" in large capital form on his outside garment. (Blake, *Warwick,* pp. 59-61)

Blake's account was written in about the year 1830 and portrays the consternation and indignation felt by the town. Amos Marsh was a selectman and town clerk for many years. Amzi

Doolittle had been a selectman and had served as town treasurer ten years. Marsh, who suffered the old colonial sentence for his offense, returned to town to live a rather pitiful existence for many years. Finally, in desperate circumstances in his old age, friends took up a collection to pay his traveling expenses to his son. (Cobb's Diary Aug. 18, 1819) Doolittle sold his farm and moved to Vermont.

This was the situation young Reverend Samuel Reed was forced to face as his introduction to the moral and spiritual conditions existing in his parish. A native of Massachusetts, he had graduated from Yale College the previous year.

The town had steadfastly refused to vote to procure preaching at each annual town meeting from 1776 to 1778. On October 2, 1778 it had refused an attempt by some to "provide preaching upon a plan of free contributions." Nevertheless the members of the church secured the services of Mr. Reed and the young man's services proved satisfactory.

On December 15 a warrant was issued calling for a town meeting to act on the following questions: Should they hire the Reverend Reed for any further term of service? Would they vote any sum of money as a salary? Would they adopt a plan proposed by the Congregational Society to contribute to a fund, the interest of which together with the interest derived from the fund to be received from the sale of the ministerial land, would be sufficient to pay his salary? Would the town agree that the interest of the ministerial fund be used to support an Orthodox Congregational minister forever? Would they vote a sum of money for a settlement to the minister? And last, would they "hold none but such as are of the Congregational denomination and relinquish all those who are of a contrary way of thinking" from paying the tax assessed to support the church?

When the meeting was called to order on December 28th the Baptists requested that the last question should be acted upon first. When this resulted in an affirmative vote, relieving them of any financial support to the church, they were perfectly willing to approve the other questions. The Reverend Reed was satisfactory and he was hired with a settlement of 675 pounds. He was

to receive a salary of 60 pounds annually for three years and then it would be increased to 70 pounds thereafter. To forestall any further inflation in the value of money his salary was to be based on the present price of a bushel of rye at three shillings and sixpence and Indian corn at two shillings and eight pence. The proposed fund, the interest of which together with the interest of the ministerial fund was to pay the minister, became acceptable. The fact that this latter town fund was to support an Orthodox Congregational minister forever apparently went unnoticed.

Two days later a petition was presented to the General Court signed by 36 men. This stated that in order not to give offense to persons of other denominations they had organized the Congregational Society of Warwick and had subscribed 1000 pounds as a fund, the interest of which was to be used to support the Congregational doctrine in Warwick forever. The town had voted December 28 that the income of the ministry land be added to the fund. The Court was asked to approve the sale of the ministry land and to incorporate the society. The General Court served notice on the town that a hearing would be held on the petition in April. (A&R, Vol. V, p. 1050)

But the Baptists had already awakened to the fact that they were relinquishing all claim to income from the fund to be created from the sale of the ministry land. They immediately requested another town meeting to vote on rescinding all the articles that had been approved. As a result all the articles (except the one relieving other denominations from supporting the minister) were rescinded.

Then they, too, sent a memorandum to the General Court signed with 55 names. This stated that the Baptists were considering building a meeting house and that they were entitled to a division of the fund, also any other Protestant denomination, according to the number of members. Until such building was erected they were willing to allow the Congregational Church to have all the income.

Before the Court made its decision the annual town meeting had been held. At the end of the warrant the last article asked "To see if the town has any objection to offer against the petition

of the Congregational Society in Warwick why the prayer thereof may not be granted." When the town meeting was called to order an action took place that the Baptists protested as illegal. Most of the Baptists lived in the outlying sections of the town. Knowing the article they were particularly concerned about was at the end of the long annual warrant many were absent at the opening of the meeting. A request was made to have the article acted upon at the opening of the meeting, it being claimed that there would be more present at that time than later when many, bored by the long warrant, would have left. The request was granted with the result that the interest of the ministerial fund was given to the Orthodox Church.

The Baptists protested and sent a petition to the General Court claiming the vote was illegal. As a result Moderator Samuel Williams wrote the following report of the meeting in a letter to the Court, April 10, 1779:

> The said 22nd of March was a Stormy Day, Notwithstanding Our meeting was General and much fuller than Sum Persons Have Represented it to be, I am Persuaded By the Number of Votes Brought in sd. Day that more than three quarters of sd. Voters attended sd. Meeting. The above Article was one of the Last in the town warant But att the Desire of Sum Persons it was Brought forward and Acted upon when the meeting was at the fullest and att such A time it was That I Put the question to the town to Know if they Had Objections to make why the Prayer of sd. Petition should not be granted.
>
> The question was Put with as much deliberation as I could Put it — I am thoughtful no Person Could Be within the walls of the House But must hear and understand the Question. There Did not Appear to me to be more than one quarter of the People Disposed to Make Objection to sd. Petition being granted in full. The Above is a true State of the Matter. I Certify it upon the Honor of a Gentleman. (A&R, Vol. V p. 1051)

The General Court passed an act incorporating the Society and approved the sale of the ministry lands, but it also agreed with the Baptists. Ezra Conant, James Ball, Medad Pomeroy,

Samuel Williams and Joseph Mayo were named as trustees of the Society. (A&R, Vol. V p. 962)

The fund thus created would have been an excellent solution to the problem but for the fact that the inflation of money continued at a tremendous rate. The fund remained stationary and soon the poor minister was in dire straits. In fact colonial history tells us no one suffered more during this period than the ministers hired under a fixed contract.

Although the town again felt too poor to send a representative to the Legislature in 1778 and 1779, when the question arose if they would choose a delegate to a convention for the purpose of making a second attempt to draft a State Constitution they voted in favor. Lieutenant Thomas Rich received this assignment, but when the convention was postponed to October Rich asked to be excused and he was not replaced.

Lieutenant Josiah Pomeroy was delegated to attend a county convention held at Northampton for the purpose of establishing lawful prices of necessities. When this convention made its report the town voted to accept it and chose a committee of seven to regulate "the price of hay and other articles which may be thought proper in the town of Warwick." A second committee of three, Hananiah Temple, Martin Stevens and Jonathan Moore were to hear complaints against any persons who transgressed the rules of the State and the above committee.

Once again all persons not legal residents were warned to leave the town according to law.

It is to be regretted that the town failed to record the names of the men who enlisted in the Continental Army to fill the quotas allotted to the town during the latter years of the war. It is only through a long, tedious search of the records of Soldiers and Sailors from Massachusetts that we are able to secure a partial list. These records give only the name of the regiment and the dates of the period of service. Seldom is any mention made of battles engaged in or of casualties that resulted. It is evident that many men and boys from Warwick saw extended service and the fact that several never returned home shows that some died in the service of their country.

Peter Proctor's militia company was again called to support the northern army under General John Stark from December 30, 1778 to July 5, 1779, but no further attempt to invade the States from Canada was made.

In 1778 we find that Elijah Kendrick, John Mallard, John Kendrick, Samuel Brown and Thomas Mallard joined the Continental Army and served chiefly along the Hudson River. Thomas Mallard was a lad of 16 years and here began a career that kept him constantly in the service until November, 1781. Abijah Adams enlisted for three years in 1779 and vanishes into the unknown. In the same year we find Tom Mallard, now 17, at New London, Connecticut, and a year later Mallard, now a veteran, is joined by Steven Conant, age 18, Daniel Bancroft, age 17, and his brother Samuel Bancroft age 19, in Colonel Thomas Nixon's regiment at West Point at the time when Benedict Arnold attempted to betray West Point to the English. Samuel Brown, a member of Captain Petty's militia company joined the Continental army in April, 1779, enlisting for the town of Warwick for a term of three years in the artillery under the command of Colonel Crane. Crane certified in 1802 that Brown served four years with his regiment.

It was becoming increasingly difficult to secure men to fill the quota required by Congress and the State due primarily to the depreciation of the Continental currency. Discharged soldiers found the money paid for their services almost worthless, and men were reluctant to enter the army. To secure enlistments the towns voted to give bounties and provided clothing for the men. When this failed to secure the required number of men heavy fines were assessed on the towns by the General Court.

In June, 1779 Warwick delegated Colonel Williams, Lieutenant Rich, Lieutenant Mayo, Lieutenant Pomeroy and James Ball to petition to the Court, stating the difficulty the town was having to secure the soldiers and asking that the fine be revoked. Seven hundred pounds had been voted to pay bounties to men in 1779. When the new quota of 11 men for six months' service in the Continental Army was called on June 5, 1780, the town voted to give a bounty of 15 pounds in silver or gold or its equal.

Elijah Ball, Caleb Mayo and Josiah Cobb were told to hire the men in any way they found expedient. On June 22, 12 men were called from the militia for three months' service on the Hudson River. Continental money was all that was available and so on July 10 the town voted to raise 20,000 pounds to hire the soldiers for terms of six months or three months of service. The committee submitted a bill to the town for 15 days spent in hiring the men for six months at the prewar rate of four shillings per day. Lieutenant Josiah Pomeroy was paid 64 pounds (Continental) for going to South Hadley with the men to be mustered.

The following December the constables in collecting taxes were instructed to discount the notes given to hire soldiers at the rate of 72 for one. This meant that 72 dollars in Continental currency was equal to one dollar in gold or silver. Thus the phrase "not worth a Continental" became widely used to denote anything of no value. A year later the ratio was dropped to 75 to one.

Beginning in 1769 the town had dropped the office of tax collector. Province law stated that in towns that followed this practice the constables would serve as collectors. It does not require much imagination to realize that during this period of inflation the constables' duty of collecting taxes must have driven them to distraction. Now to top it off, a flood of counterfeit money appeared on the scene. In the annual town warrant in 1780 appeared an article "to see if the town will hear the petition of the constables with respect to their having received from the inhabitants of the town a sum of counterfeit money which the treasurer refuses to take, they pray the town to grant them said sum of money as also a further sum if they see fit for their extraordinary services." They received reimbursement for the money but nothing for their extraordinary services. Henry Burnet and Doctor Ezra Conant were elected constables but Burnet refused to serve. Conant resigned as town clerk and left town, reappearing in 1787, again as town clerk. Then Doctor Pomeroy and Jonas Leonard were chosen and they refused to take the oath of office. Finally Nicholas Watts and Josiah Cobb accepted.

The appropriations made at the annual town meeting in 1780

reflect the currency troubles: 5,000 pounds for the support of highways, and men's wages were set at nine pounds a day, a yoke of oxen five pounds and a cart or plough at three pounds. Seven hundred pounds were raised for the support of schools.

On the 24th day of May the new State Constitution was brought before the town for its approval. It was refused approval until it was read an article at a time. The first two chapters were approved unanimously by the 73 voters present. The third chapter dealt with the qualifications of elected and appointed civil officials. The Constitution required that they must be of the Christian religion. An amendment was proposed that "no person shall hold any seat in the Civil Department except he be a professor of the Christian Protestant Religion." The amendment lost by a vote of 38 to 28. Other objections were raised to articles in the Bill of Rights and a committee consisting of Peter Fisk, Savel Metcalf and Josiah Rawson was instructed to "regulate the objections and amendments and return their doings to the Selectmen." The Constitution which was primarily the work of John Adams was ratified by two thirds of the State and on October 25, 1780 Massachusetts became in truth a free Commonwealth.

The first election of State officers was held September 4, 1781. Honorable John Hancock received 24 votes for governor and James Bowdoin 12.

The General Court at several times had called on the town to supply shoes, stockings, shirts and blankets for the Continental Army. All these had been provided, and now in June four horses and 4,240 pounds of beef were called for. Six thousand pounds was voted to procure the beef, and Samuel Langley, Jonas Ball and Ebenezer Cheney were chosen to secure it. In December more beef was requested, and Samuel Williams, Joseph Mayo and Abner Shearman were to buy the beef.

A new quota of men for a three-year enlistment period or the duration of the war was received in December, 1780, and Elijah Ball, Josiah Cobb and Joseph Mayo were to obtain the men. In February, 1781, the committee was dismissed, having failed to secure them and the task was given to Cobb with seven men to advise him. It was decided to "class" the town, agreeable to

(top) Unitarian Church
(bottom) Public Library

Common (now Fellows Memorial Field), looking toward Mount Grace with the old schoolhouse and Unitarian Church in the foreground, about 1900

the orders of the General Court, and each class was to draught one man. The results are unknown, but Joseph Goodell served in the Continental Army from this time until October 8, 1784.

At the annual meeting in 1781 all appropriations for anticipated expenses for the year were made in the value of silver money; 100 pounds for highways, 60 pounds for schools and ten pounds to pay for the town's stock of ammunition. In June 60 pounds in silver was voted to pay Major Joseph Mayo to provide a new requisition of beef for the army, and Dr. Pomeroy, Williams and Lieutenant Pomeroy were to obtain seven men from the militia companies, 30 pounds in silver being provided for their use. The treasurer was directed not to receive from the constables money collected for taxes except at the rate of one silver dollar for 75 Continental dollars.

The committee to obtain the last call for soldiers submitted their account on August 22. It was found necessary to increase the 30 pounds previously voted to 86 pounds. The personal services of the committee included 17 mugs of flip at a shilling a mug. Evidently this was considered necessary to get the men in the proper condition to sign the enlistment papers.

The surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown on October 19, 1781, virtually ended the war although formal peace negotiations were not closed until 1783. The story of the hardship and trials undergone by the people of Warwick and the country as a whole is shown in the difficulties caused by the tremendous burden placed upon impoverished people. Today after nearly two centuries it is perhaps difficult for the average person to understand the blunders, the apparent inexcusable defeats in battle, the treachery found in high officials, and the lack of unity or concern shown between individual colonies.

To understand we must know the customs, the beliefs, the meager educational facilities and the primitive living conditions that existed at the time. We must never cease to honor these founders of our country and impress future generations with the tremendous debt we owe to those who fought for us, poorly armed, poorly trained, often hungry and in rags, and paid in worthless money.

7

HARD TIMES AND SHAYS'S REBELLION, 1781-1787

Warwick and other nearby towns had frequently complained in past years to the General Court in regard to the cost and hardship caused by their distance from the County seat where all deeds and estates were recorded. On September 19, 1781 the town elected Deacon James Ball, Captain Goldsbury and Colonel Williams as a committee to inquire among the northern towns of Worcester and Hampshire Counties in an effort to secure their aid in persuading the legislature to set up another county. This question was to be frequently agitated in the ensuing years, but it was not until 1811 that Franklin County was established.

The people in the village of South Warwick also had a complaint of several years' standing. During the last ten years they had increased rapidly in numbers and were becoming a close knit community. The distance from Warwick center was an obstacle in attending church and engaging in town affairs, and agitation began to form a separate town. On October 2, 1781 a town meeting was called for October 23 "to see if the town will vote four thousand and sixty acres of land more or less in the southwest corner of Warwick with the inhabitants thereon to be erected into a town with part of Athol, Royalston and Ervingshire." The town approved the article according to the plan submitted by Elijah Ball and the boundary established followed the original lines of the second division of lots laid out in 1737 along the summit of the range of hills which were a natural boundary. This area was incorporated as the District of Orange and joined with Warwick in electing a representative to the General Court. It was not until 1810 that it was incorporated as a town.

By this action Warwick lost many estimable citizens who had been prominent in many town activities and were now to become the leaders of Orange. Among these were the families of Elijah Ball, Nathan Goddard, Benjamin Mayo, Savel and Joseph Met-

calf, Moses, Ebenezer and Levi Cheney, Hananiah Temple, Alexander Wheelock, Jonathan Woodward, James Mills and Ebenezer Foskett.

On April 1, 1782 Moses Leonard gave the land that now is the north end of the cemetery to the town for a burying ground on condition that the town would erect a fence along the roadside and allow him and his heirs forever to pasture their "neet" cattle and sheep there. Moses was now 73 years old and he had come to Warwick in 1778 to spend his declining years near his six sons and four daughters who had all settled in the town years before. Apparently he lived with or near his son Samuel at the south-east corner of the present cemetery. Many of the bodies buried in the old cemetery in the northwest corner of the town common were reinterred in the new cemetery, including that of the Reverend Lemuel Hedge.

Moses' sons all settled in Warwick. Moses, Jr. came here in 1760 with his sister Lucy (possibly induced by Amos Marsh who had married his sister Beulah) and Moses first owned Lot 52 in the first division. Here he built his home, served the town as selectman and in many other offices, and had ten children. Lucy soon married his neighbor Samuel Ball. The second son, Samuel, bought home Lot 22 but later moved to the village and built his home. He married Silence Ripley and had eight children. He lived to be 100 years old, dying in Canton, New York. Jonas, the third son, settled on Chestnut Hill where his son Jonas, 2nd, was born and died, and his grandson Jonas, 3rd, lived until 1863. Francis Leonard, the fourth son, took over the sawmill owned by his brother-in-law Jeduthan Morse when the latter died in the Canada expedition in 1776. Francis, who was a Minute Man answering the Concord alarm on April 20, continued the sawmill until his death in 1838. His daughter Sarah married George Moore who inherited the mill. Noah, the fifth son married Bethiah Witherell and moved to Keene in 1789. John Leonard, the sixth son, conducted a blacksmith shop near the inn in the upper village until 1793. Francis, Jonas and John all were Revolutionary War veterans. (Letter from W. F. Leonard, Chicago, Ill., 1960)

This year 1782, for the first time since 1777, the town voted to send a representative to the General Court, and Captain John Goldsbury was chosen. Five men were chosen to draw up instructions for Goldsbury and submit them to the town for approbation. The instructions, as follows, were approved:

> To Capt. John Goldsbury,
>
> Sir, You being chosen to represent us in the General Court of this Commonwealth, we, the inhabitants of the town of Warwick do give you the following instructions: viz., That you do your endeavor that the sums apportioned on us of the public charges be lessened, as we think that they are more than our part, according to our ability. That the governor, council, senate and all other men in this State that are under public pay, be lessened to a reasonable rate. That the charges annually arising be ascertained. That you inquire into the state of the treasury and of what money has been granted, and how applied. That all men unnecessarily employed in public business be dismissed. That the General Court be removed out of Boston into some other town.

It is apparent that the town was very skeptical about the conduct of the State government. Very little interest was shown in State elections. What influence our representative exerted in the legislature is unknown but the following year the town voted not to send a representative and instructed the selectmen to inform the General Court that it was due to the "extreme poverty" of the town. The following year the town joined with the District of Orange and chose James Ball to represent them. During the past few years the deacon had become reinstated in good grace and had served on several important committees. Doctor Medad Pomeroy had long since returned to a prominent role in town affairs and the memory of Reverend Lemuel Hedge was fading away.

In 1784 the town voted to hire a constable and tax collector, and Abraham Robarts was given the position at a consideration of $17.00, "sd Robarts to procure sufficient bondsmen to indemnify the town." The following year it was voted to give the office of collector to the lowest bidder and this practice was con-

tinued as a general rule until 1902. Competition occasionally was so keen that the successful candidate actually paid the town to have the job, the collector receiving his compensation in the fees and commissions allowed.

On May 31, 1786 the town voted to recommend to the Governor that he appoint John Goldsbury as a Justice of the Peace for the town. This action was considered by many as "unconstitutional and assuming upon authority and will not tend for the peace and happiness of the town" and 28 names were recorded in protest. Goldsbury had also shown Tory sympathies and it had not been completely forgotten.

During the preceding year a road had been laid out from the south county road to Northfield through the land of Mark Moore, north by the mill of Nathaniel Rich on the Northfield brook, and meeting the north county road to Northfield. Moore put in a claim for land damages and a committee of three prominent Northfield men were asked to investigate the claim and submit their recommendations. The report stated,

> We do therefore after hearing the parties and the best information we can obtain of the town and of the intentions of the Original Proprietors in having a sufficient quantity of land to each lot for roads which the town have a right to call for and lay out at any time when the convenience of the inhabitants call for it. — Do give it as our opinion that the said town do not allow the said Moore anything for it but consider it as a privilege belonging to the town which they have an undoubted right to.

The original layout of lots as made by the proprietors shows the provision made for future roads, and the farsighted wisdom of these men had anticipated and settled the question of land damages for generations to come.

The town had long since outgrown the old meeting house. Since the incorporation of the Orthodox Congregational Society by the General Court in 1777 the only responsibilities accepted by the town were necessary repairs and the care of the building. It appeared that if a new building was to be erected it would

have to be done by the Society. In September, 1786 a contract was given to Samuel Langley which called for erecting a meeting house

> fifty-eight feet long by forty-two feet wide with a porch on the front of the house sufficient to contain convenient stairs to go up into the galleries. There is to be forty pews on the lower floor; there is to be galleries in the front and at each end of the house, fourteen feet wide from the wall, with pews on the back of said galleries five feet eight inches wide from the wall; the rest of the gallery to be seats with a convenient alley round. The seats in the front gallery to be for singers to sit in; the seats in the side galleries to be for persons to sit in as the Congregational Society shall direct.

The pews on the lower floor were to cost the owner an average of nine pounds each to be paid in the following manner: "Two pounds in cash for each pew when the meeting house is raised; two pounds more for each pew when they are finished off; the rest of the pay to be paid for in neat cattle, sheep, or flax seed at the currant price when the meeting house is completely finished. . . . The gallery pews to be five pounds each on the average."

The meeting house was erected on the common approximately where the present schoolhouse stands. The front of the building with the porch was on the south side with the pews facing north. The Society cast lots for the choice of pews, which had been arranged in a double row on each side of a broad aisle leading from the main entrance to the pulpit platform. Finally it was ready to occupy in the Fall of 1787, and the old meeting house was left to its memories of the many stirring scenes that had occurred within its walls. Two years later the town gave the old building to the church society to raze in return for the right to hold town meetings in the new one as they had done in the past.

The War of the Revolution was also now a memory, but the trouble-filled days were by no means a thing of the past. The poverty and exhaustion of the country in consequence of the war was complete. The depreciated currency remained a problem. There were many questions to be met and solved in order

to establish a government founded on the principles of equal justice for all. Nearly everyone was deeply in debt, and taxes were heavy and pressing. The most important step to be taken was to place the country on a sound financial basis. Many divergent opinions as to the best remedy to correct the situation had to be reconciled before action could be taken by the General Court. This consumed time and the situation grew steadily worse. The legislature passed the "Tender Act" in 1782 which made neat cattle, livestock and other articles a legal tender to pay debts but it only increased the evil it was intended to cure. The inability of the legislature to correct the situation created a spirit of distrust and a lack of faith in this body and people began to think they must take affairs into their own hands. Artful demagogues stirred up the people of one class against another. The government of Massachusetts was held responsible for every evil and the people were so inflamed by these orators that many were willing to take up arms against the government.

Sentiment had been aroused to such an extent that many of the towns had formed local committees which followed the pattern set by the Committees of Safety and Correspondence during the war. Joint meetings were held between the committees of various towns, and finally a convention was arranged for representatives of all the towns in Hampshire County (which included Franklin), to be held in Hatfield, August 29, 1786. An article was put in the warrant for a special town meeting to see if Warwick would send a delegate to this meeting. As a result Jacob Packard (a comparative unknown) was chosen delegate and John Goldsbury, Josiah Cobb and Thomas Rich were a committee to instruct the delegate as to his recommendations. The convention drew up a list of grievances as did similar conventions in the other western counties.

Emboldened by the enthusiasm and support given the conventions, these discontented people who called themselves "Regulators" began to assemble in mobs and prevented the courts from holding their sessions. Now the patience of Governor Bowdoin was exhausted, and the legislature was finally persuaded to pass a law against riots and unlawful assemblies. At the same

time several measures were passed designed to alleviate conditions, and a pardon was offered to all who would take an oath of allegiance by January 1.

But it was now too late to threaten or conciliate the "Regulators." Daniel Shays, the leader of the Regulators in this section of the State, sent a circular letter to the selectmen of the towns asking them to assemble the people of the town and see that they were properly armed. In Warwick two of the selectmen, Thomas Rich and Josiah Cobb, called a meeting to be held January 1, 1787 to see if the town would choose a delegate to a new convention to be held at Hatfield on the first Tuesday in January, and to see if the town would "allow the Selectmen to deliver out the town's stock of ammunition upon any emergency." As a result of this meeting Thomas Rich was elected as delegate, but it was voted to "pass over" the article regarding the town's ammunition.

This second Hatfield convention again drew up a list of grievances and at a town meeting at Warwick, January 16, it was voted that the town would send a petition to the General Court in support of the convention. Two weeks later another meeting was held to see if the town would vote "to dismiss their representative to the General Court from further service or give him instructions as they see fitt." The town voted that their representative "should not attend unless he receive further instructions from his constituents." Lieutenant Rich, Nathaniel G. Stevens and Levi Cheney were chosen to instruct him.

During this month of January Shays and his army of some 1,100 men had marched to Springfield with the intention of seizing the Springfield arsenal and securing arms for the men. General Benjamin Lincoln was in command of an army of militia who were pursuing Shays to prevent him from succeeding. General Shepard, defending the arsenal, was forced to fire on Shays's men, killing three. Shays's army retreated to Amherst and then to Petersham, pursued by Lincoln's militia. Marching through New Salem in a howling blizzard they surprised Shays, resting in Petersham. Shays with about 100 men escaped to Warwick where they spent the next night at the taverns owned

by Colonel James Goldsbury and Asa Conant. Goldsbury's tavern was located at the southeast corner of the Rum Brook road and the old Winchester road. Asa Conant's tavern was one mile north on the old Winchester road. The following day, February 6, Shays and the remnant of his army reached Winchester, New Hampshire, where they were safely over the State line.

The minutes of the annual town meeting in March, 1787 reveal that a disturbed situation existed. Doctor Medad Pomeroy had regained all of his former town offices the preceding year: selectman, moderator, treasurer, assessor and his bid to collect the taxes for seven pounds was accepted, thus giving him the office of constable and collector. He had become a heavy land owner and probably was now the most prosperous man in town. To have received these offices he must have been generally popular and respected, but as the poverty of the inhabitants increased his popularity decreased. He was the only selectman to uphold the State government and had not signed the warrants with the other two selectmen that called the special town meetings to act on the rebellion. The doctor's views had become obnoxious, and a rude hint was given to him to show him it would be wise to muzzle his tongue. One morning the doctor opened his door only to have a coffin which had been left leaning against it tumble in upon him. In the coffin he found a paper with these words:

> Now I come and you must die,
> And in my bowels you must lie.
> Where you go I cannot tell;
> Whether it be to Heaven or to Hell.

The doctor appeared to make light of the prank but there were many who hoped he had been firmly impressed with the feeling that had risen against him. ("The Trial of Col. Goldsbury," by his son Rev. John Goldsbury, Athol Chronicle, 1883)

When the annual meeting assembled Ezra Conant was chosen moderator and town clerk, and then it was proposed and voted that the meeting stand adjourned to the first Monday in April at eight o'clock in the forenoon. No reason for this startling action is given but the maneuver gave time for the troubled waters to

settle. Colonel James Goldsbury had been arrested and charged with harboring Shays and his men. The date of his trial is not known, but it is possible that the meeting was postponed pending the outcome of the trial. He was found not guilty, his defense being that the men had paid their bills and were only guests.

When the meeting reassembled Pomeroy once more lost all his town offices and James Goldsbury was elected selectman in his place. His father, John Goldsbury, became treasurer. A note at the end of the minutes stated that the chosen officers "in general" had taken the required oath of allegiance to the State government.

Though Shays and his band had been dispersed there were several other bands of Regulators still active. In the general cleanup of these remaining groups some blood was shed as the leaders were arrested. In an attempt to seize Jason Parmenter of Bernardston one of the soldiers was killed. Parmenter was subsequently arrested and with several other leaders was tried, found guilty and sentenced to be hung at Northampton in May.

The approaching execution of the men aroused the sympathy of many and great pressure was brought to bear on the Governor to pardon them. In order to force the Governor to do this, friends of the condemned men seized Doctor Pomeroy and Joseph Metcalf of Orange and took them to a hiding place in Vermont as hostages for the lives of the men.

The details pertaining to the kidnaping and imprisonment of the two men are unknown. The town seethed with excitement and accusations and charges flew thick and fast. The selectmen (now all well known as sympathizers with, if not active, Regulators) were arrested upon suspicion of having some part in the affair.

The condemned men were actually standing on the scaffold with the noose dangling before their faces when a sheriff read a reprieve from the Governor. The rebellion had by now been effectually crushed and because there was much justification and widespread sympathy for it, all wanted to bring the tragic farce to an end. The men were pardoned, Pomeroy and Metcalf were allowed to escape, and the selectmen were released.

The following October the selectmen placed Article 4 in a town warrant "to see if the Town will assist the Selectmen in their being taken and imprisoned in May last for acting in their office and to prosecute those persons that took them or act anything on that matter that the town think proper and chuse attorney or attornies to prosecute the same as the Town shall think fitt." The town spoke quite eloquently when they voted to pass over Article 4.

But the doctor had received more abuse than he could bear. He sold his farm and moved back to his old home town of Northfield. Here he once more established himself in his profession and took a leading part in town affairs, although he never accepted another town office. Time heals all wounds and after twenty years he returned to Warwick to spend his declining years with his son. He died in 1819, age 83, esteemed, respected and mourned by all who had known him.

8

A TOWN COMES OF AGE, 1788-1800

THE FINAL CURTAIN had descended on the last scene of Shays's Rebellion and with its close Warwick lost a man who had played a prominent role in its part in the sorry affair. Lieutenant Thomas Rich had been a leading citizen in town affairs from 1761, serving many years as selectman, a soldier in the Revolution, Representative to the General Court and to many Conventions. His father, Elisha, had been a proprietor in 1753, owning Lot 45 in the first division, but Thomas is shown to have occupied it. His three brothers, Nathan, Caleb and Jacob, all settled in Warwick before 1771, and all were prominent citizens with large families. Nathan and Thomas owned and operated sawmills in several locations. Caleb became a Universalist minister and is considered one of the founders of the denomination. Jacob settled along Mirey Brook on the main Winchester Road.

In 1785 Nathan removed to Shoreham, Vermont, on the shore of Lake Champlain where he at once established a sawmill, and in 1787 Thomas was persuaded to join him. With Thomas went his oldest son Charles who had been born in Warwick in 1771. Charles returned to claim his bride, Molly Watts, and eventually became a member of Congress from Vermont. Caleb joined his brothers about 1800, leaving only Jacob, now the owner of 500 acres of land and a power to be reckoned with in Sunny Valley. Aside from his large farm he is mentioned as a tavernkeeper, owner of a grist mill and a gin mill, a sawmill and a clothing shop, active in any enterprise that would help him live up to the name of "Rich."

Another man who was lost to Warwick at this time was Lieutenant Colonel Samuel Williams, the son of another proprietor, Colonel Joseph Williams of Roxbury. He was the first representative to the Provincial Congress in 1775, leader of the town's militia companies, second in command of his regiment and prominent in town and church affairs. He died suddenly in 1786 in the prime of life.

But there were other men able and willing to assume control of the town government. Josiah Cobb appears to have grasped the reins of leadership when he began 16 years of service as first selectman in 1780. James Goldsbury joined him in 1787 to serve 11 years in all. The following year the board was increased to five members and Nathaniel Stevens, Jonathan Gale and Mark Moore joined Cobb and Goldsbury and these five annually resisted all attempts to replace them for six years. Then it appears the public decided it was time for a change and the number of selectmen was reduced to three, never to change again.

There were four Cobbs mentioned in the records as early as 1770, David, William, Josiah and Richard, possibly all brothers. William's sons, William and Samuel, were to be prominent for many years. William Cobb, the 2nd, owned the principal village store for over half a century and was the first postmaster from 1805 to his death in 1853. Aside from these activities he also served as town treasurer, at an annual salary of five dollars, for nearly fifty years and engaged in numerous business enterprises.

Still he found time to leave behind him a notable contribution to this history in the diaries which he faithfully kept from 1794 to 1853, most of which were given to the town library by his grandson, George Burt Cobb. These diaries record many historical facts and give invaluable information on customs and folklore. They will be quoted frequently as a reference.

Another group of brothers were the Mayos who were grandsons of Captain Joseph Mayo, one of the original proprietors. His son became known as Colonel Joseph Mayo and was extremely active in the early settlement. It is doubtful if he ever resided permanently in the township; he died in Roxbury in 1776. His six sons, Joseph, Benjamin, Caleb, Samuel, Daniel and David, with their cousin John, all settled in Warwick. Joseph, the oldest brother, was a lieutenant during the Revolution, eventually becoming also a colonel in the militia. He engaged in many enterprises and was a large property owner until he sold out his interests and returned to Roxbury about 1806. Benjamin, Caleb and David were the most prominent of the remaining brothers. Benjamin located in the village of South Warwick, now the village of North Orange. Caleb was to leave the most lasting impression on Warwick. He settled at Mayo's Four Corners in the eastern part of the town, where he was a merchant and a farmer besides engaging in civic and church affairs. Squire Mayo, as he was known, was famous as the father of eight very beautiful daughters who stimulated church attendance among eligible males by their presence. The Squire died in 1838 leaving two sons, Amory and Edward. Their descendants were to remain on the farm until near the close of the last century. David Mayo built the large tavern in the upper village in 1794 and conducted it until 1800 when he left Warwick.

Deacon James Ball who had played such a prominent role in town affairs died in 1797, but the name Ball was to remain active in Warwick for another century and a half. There were several other early settlers who bore that name and possibly were related to each other, but it seems impossible to verify this. Among these were Samuel, Elijah, Isaac, Nathan and John.

The Barber family still is represented in town today by Roy

and his brother Ray. They are descendants of Joseph and Thomas, first mentioned in town records in 1771, and Zackeriah who appears in 1781. Deacon Hervey Barber and his son Rev. Stilman were also descendants.

There were also what appear to be six brothers, Andrew, Archibald, Isaac, Henry, William and Robert Burnet, who settled as early as 1771 and all of whom signed their names in favor of independence in 1776. Their descendants were to be prominent in town, church and militia affairs until after the Civil War.

Three Conants appeared on the scene, one, Deacon Benjamin as early as 1760. In 1770 we find Doctor Ezra Conant, in 1775 Asa appears and in 1789 Josiah is mentioned for the first time. Three generations of Benjamins appear to be farmers, but Asa and later Asa, Jr. and his brother Jonas owned a tavern, a sawmill and a grist mill on what is called Kidder Brook, near the junction of the old Winchester Road and Robbins Road. Josiah and his son Josiah, Jr. also owned a grist mill and a sawmill on what is now called Gale Road, at the pond and home now owned by Harry Earle.

The northeast section of the town is still called Kelton's Corner although the last of the Keltons have been long gone. Thomas, Barnard and James were the first of the Kelton brothers to settle there prior to the Revolution. The father, Enoch, followed with Aaron, Nathan and Rufus. Most of these remained and built homes in the section. Today only the house built by James Jr. still stands, but abandoned. In an area of approximately four square miles the only resident there in the years since the first World War has been Amos Alexander, a veteran of that war. He lives there alone, lord of all he surveys and content.

Samuel and Jonathan Moore were two brothers who appear during the Revolution. They sired large families which were active in town affairs and owned several sawmills and a grist mill in the western side of the town.

The name of Stearns was to be prominent in the early history of the town from about 1775 through most of the next century. Four brothers, Ebenezer, Nathaniel, Simeon and William came to Warwick from Northfield. They and their descendants were

prominent citizens for several generations, related by marriage to many families including the Athertons and Leonards.*

The early records record the names of David Gale, 1765 and Daniel and his son Jonathan Gale in 1776. The latter two came from Weston. There is no relationship claimed between the families of David and Daniel but both have many descendants in nearby towns today. No one however bears the Gale name in Warwick at the present time, although Mrs. Julia Green, age 92, is the daughter of Appleton Gale.

David Gale erected a grist mill as early as 1770 on the brook that bears his name. It ceased to be operated as a grist mill before 1830 though three more generations of Davids lived at the place until it was abandoned by William Gale, brother of the fourth David, about 1870. Appleton Gale, a brother of these two, married Mary Conant and operated the Conant saw and grist mills about a mile and a half northeast of the Gale mill on the present Gale Road until the turn of the century.

Daniel Gale located on the old Winchester Road in the north end of Warwick. His son Jonathan and grandson Amory established a blacksmith shop with a trip hammer on Mirey Brook and manufactured axes and tools. Both families were very prominent in town affairs and represented the town in the State legislature.

Captain John Gouldsbury and his son James came to Warwick from Franklin, Massachusetts, in 1771 and soon the father had established himself as a leading citizen. The letter "u" was soon dropped from the first part of the name. Captain John is believed to have acquired the saw and grist mills originally built by Scott and Ayres. He served as a selectman in 1772 but it is said he was inclined to be loyal to King George and it is not until after the Revolution that he again held town office. In 1783 he was returned to the office of selectman for three years and later he was sent as representative to the General Court.

His son, known as Colonel James (though how he acquired

*Beside Joseph Stevens, the only descendant of a Proprietor still connected with Warwick, so far as we can ascertain, is George A. Chaffee, Jr., a summer resident and descendant of Moses Leonard.

the title we hear not), is known to fame as the proprietor of a tavern at the southeast corner of the junction of the Rum Brook Road and the old Winchester Road. He married the daughter of Colonel Samuel Williams and they had three sons, James, John and Samuel.

James and Samuel were both farmers. James held many town offices and lived to be 101 years old, dying in 1898. His son James went out west before the Civil War but his grandchildren, particularly Royal and Paul, retained an active interest in the Goldsbury homestead on the Athol Road. Doctor Paul returned here and made his home with an aunt. He spent most of the remainder of his life in Warwick, taking an active interest in town affairs. He was the Democratic nominee for state senator on two occasions, but his only elective town office was a member of the library trustees.

John Goldsbury the brother of James and Samuel, became a minister and an educator. He was the author of several text-books popular in the middle of the last century. He retired to his home in Warwick in the 1860's where he was active in church, school and library affairs until his death, age 95, in 1890.

The old homestead now is empty but in the hands of Royal's son Christopher whose home is in Texas.

Hastings is a family name so common in Warwick in its early days that it is impossible for us to trace the several families who bore the name and so determine beyond all doubt what, if any, connection exists between them.

The first mention of the name is found on page one of the first book of Vital Statistics, when on August 28, 1743 Nathan, son of Benjamin and Mary Hastings, was born. When Gardner's Canada was abandoned, Benjamin and his wife and family are believed to have gone to Watertown. Nathan and his bride returned to Warwick, settled in the northwest corner of the town about 1768 and proceeded to raise a large family. His sons were Benjamin, 2nd, Jonas and Nathan, Jr. Nathan Senior had two nephews, William and Henry, who joined their uncle and cousins about 1800 and also located on the Richmond Road. The descendants of these Hastings were to be residents of Warwick for over a century.

Another Hastings appeared in 1778, when Isaac Hastings settled on what is now the Athol Road about one half a mile from the center of the town. Later he built his second home where Stephen Clark's house now stands. One of his sons, Daniel, became the father of the Samuel Hastings who was to be prominent in Warwick for many years around the end of the nineteenth century. Another son of Isaac was Caleb, and he and his son Caleb W. were to live on the Hastings Pond Road in the house now owned by Mrs. Bertha Coe.

A. Jarvis Hastings led a third family group to Warwick in the 1880's. They located on the high elevation overlooking town that now bears the name of Hastings Heights. The numerous Hastings clan has long since left Warwick, but the names they gave to the town's natural features remain.

Stevens is the only name which has been associated with the town from the beginning of Gardner's Canada down to the present day. Joseph was an original proprietor in 1735; his brother Samuel succeeded him and played an important role in the early settlement until its incorporation as a town.

Nathaniel Gove Stevens, 1716-1796, is known to have come to Gardner's Canada as early as 1761 and settled on Lot 26 in the first division. He brought four sons with him: Wilder, Martin, Nathaniel Gove II, Abraham, and five daughters. Wilder built the Stevens "Old Red House" in 1770, and this is still in good condition today. His son Joseph was a leading citizen in Warwick in the 1840's and his great-grandson Joseph is a prominent resident today.

There were to be three men to carry the name of Nathaniel Gove Stevens, and all were to be identified with the ownership of sawmills. Nathaniel E. Stevens was to own and operate a tannery until after the close of the Civil War.

Today the many descendants of the Stevens family are widely scattered but reunion gatherings still bring them together at the Stevens homestead, the "Old Red House."

The Cook family who trace their ancestry back to Sir Thomas Cook, Lord Mayor of London in 1463, played a prominent role in Warwick for about 100 years. Daniel Cook came to Warwick from Concord and owned Lot 28 in the first division as early as

1767. Solomon and his son Nathan Cook were also early settlers, but we can find no connection between them and Daniel.

Daniel left his family of several small children to serve briefly in the Revolution in 1781 and then returned home to resume a prominent role in the town. He had eight children, one of whom, Ezekiel, carried on the farm and also raised eight children. Ezekiel's son Ashabel was born in 1809 and lived on the old farm until 1867 when he moved to Barre. Ashabel and his wife, Emmeline Field of Northfield, raised ten children. Eight were sons who grew to be six feet tall, thus giving their mother the right to boast that she had "forty-eight feet of boys."

Many of these sons became prominent in widely separated places but it was through the loyalty of Rhoda, one of the two daughters, that the family still maintains a summer home in Warwick opposite the town hall. Rhoda taught school in Holyoke for many years then retired to Warwick, actively serving the town as a member of the school committee and a member of the board of library trustees. Intensely interested in the history of Warwick, she kept copious notes and volumes of newspaper clippings which have been of great assistance in compiling this history.

Her nephew George Cook of Springfield, a former county commissioner of Hampden County, owns the Rhoda Cook house today and uses it as a country home. The family maintains a deep interest in the old town.

We have endeavored to mention a few of the family names that played a prominent role in the town from its early days down through many generations. There were many others such as the Robbins family, the Smiths, the Morses and the Atwoods.

At this time, space and information available makes it quite difficult to essay the relative importance of the many families. We can only offer apologies to those who question our judgement.

Now let us return to town affairs which we left at the close of Shays's Rebellion. The town slowly recovered as the currency became stabilized, but from the day of the Revolution whenever a new town treasurer was elected, the committee chosen to inventory the town treasury before transfering it to the new man would mention at the bottom of the list of assets a bundle of Continental

currency without attempting to declare its value. Finally in 1791 the town voted to put it up to bids and it was sold for five pounds, 13 shillings and two pence.

The church society organized in 1779 to support the minister gave up the hopeless struggle in 1794 and the town voted to assume his salary once more, exempting all persons of other denominations from the ministerial tax. It was voted to pay Reverend Reed 70 pounds a year in silver at six shillings and eight pence per ounce, and provide him 20 cords of good merchantable wood. This arrangement was satisfactory to the parson at first but in 1798 he asked for an increase to 100 pounds. Several attempts were made to secure the increase but each time the town refused. At the annual town meeting in 1800 his friends succeeded in increasing his salary, but 11 persons entered a protest. The meeting was adjourned and when the matter was debated again and voted with the names of those voting being recorded, the reverend lost his raise in salary by one vote; 39 Nay and 38 Yea. Reverend Reed then asked to be dismissed, but he was persuaded to reconsider and withdrew his request.

A committee chosen in 1793 by the town to investigate "what has become of the Ministry and School Rites of land in Warwick" reported that most of it had been sold. Eventually all of it was sold and a Ministry Fund and School Fund was created. The interest from the Ministry Fund was used to reduce the amount the town had to raise for the minister's salary. The interest received from the School Fund was divided among the school districts until they were abolished.

The first hearse was provided by the town in 1793 when Lieutenant Jonathan Gale was "empowered to provide a funeral carriage." It was a two-wheel vehicle and doubtless received hard usage. Nevertheless it lasted 21 years when the town replaced it with one with four wheels in 1812.

The town still maintained the two militia companies, and the rivalry between them was intense. When a man became liable for military duty he had the choice of joining either company. Officers were elected not so much because of their military qualifications as for their personal popularity. Each attempted to

secure recruits by demonstrating his generous and tolerant nature, and the ease with which one opened his purse to treat his men was all-important.

In order to put an end to this situation it was voted in 1793 to divide the town into north and south companies. Deacon James Ball, Captain Mark Moore and Lieutenant Jonathan Gale were the committee to arrange the matter. They established the old north road from Northfield to the village and the road from there to Royalston as the dividing line.

Elections of officers were frequent and promotions were rapid. Judging from the records, when a man had attained the highest office he deemed possible he would resign after a brief period of service and create a vacancy for his subordinate. It was a period when titles of all kinds were eagerly sought as a mark of distinction showing one's status in the community. These titles would be carried to the grave. Thus we find our old rural cemeteries filled with the gravestones of lieutenants, captains and colonels, many of whom had no war service.

The office of deacon in the church was a great honor, testifying to the excellent character of the recipient. To obtain the title of Squire a man had not only to be prominent in town affairs but he must have served as the town's representative in the State legislature, or to have filled the office of Justice of the Peace.

Wolves had long since ceased to be a menace to the farmers, but in 1796 wildcats had become such a pest that a bounty of 20 shillings was placed on their heads. The following year 30 pounds was raised to pay for the bounties of the previous year and the bounty was continued for several years. Crows too were so prevalent and destructive to the crops that they incurred the wrath of the farmers when in 1798 a bounty of one shilling six pence was voted for old crows and nine pence for young ones. Where the line was drawn to distinguish the young from the old we can offer no solution. Both of these bounties were voted annually for some 20 years.

The same year, 1798, the town voted that the tax on dogs could be paid by performing a day's labor on the roads for each dog.

Prior to 1799 the office of tax collector was put up to bid at the annual town meeting and given to the man who would collect them for the least amount, his principal reward being one half of one percent of the taxes collected. The time had now come when this percentage amounted to enough so that the office was given to the man who would pay the town the highest sum for it provided he could secure satisfactory bondsmen. He would then be elected as constable to give him the necessary authority. In 1799 Peter Proctor, Jr. gave $8.75 for the office.

9

VIGOROUS YEARS, 1800-1825

THE ENGLISH MONETARY SYSTEM had been used in all financial transactions until 1800, but with the start of the new century our American system of dollars and cents which was established in 1792 came into accepted use.

It was a period in the history of the town and the country when both were changing rapidly and in the process were experiencing the growing pains of youth. As both developed, readjustments were required and demanded by many, and of course resisted by others. No doubt the same sentiments were expressed that we hear today. Youth cried out that they were living in a different world from that of their fathers, and the elders would remember the "good old days" and answer that this new world was not a better one. All changes brought strife and discord.

We have seen how the town became divided over the support of the established church, still at least in theory supported and controlled by the town. A radical change in the religious life of the people was occurring as various denominations came into being, each strenuously resenting being forced to support the town church. The Universalists were the most numerous but a small group who called themselves "Restorationists" also protested.

Turnpikes

The increasing population brought with it a constant demand for more roads to be laid out and built by the town. As a result the roads were crude and rough, often impassable during the mud season. In order to alleviate the situation and assist the towns to have better main roads to the eastern part of the State the legislature authorized corporations or stock companies to build turnpikes or private roads. These were to be used by the public on the payment of a toll, and toll gates were located on the turnpikes about ten miles apart to collect the tolls established by the legislature.

On March 1, 1799, the legislature passed an act establishing the Fifth Massachusetts Turnpike, stating

> Whereas the highway leading from Northfield in the County of Hampshire through Warwick and Orange to Athol . . . is rocky and mountainous . . . be it enacted that Timothy Dutton, Elisha Hunt of Northfield, Caleb Mayo, David Mayo, Josiah Proctor of Warwick (and others from Orange and Athol) are constituted a corporation . . . for the purpose of laying out and making a turnpike road from Captain Elisha Hunt's in Northfield through Warwick, Orange, Athol . . . to Leominster.

A second road was also authorized to be built from Greenfield to Montague and to then follow the course of the Millers River to intersect the first road in Athol. This road ran through what is now the town of Erving and was designated the south turnpike road. (Mass. Special Laws, Vol. II, p. 295)

The north turnpike from Northfield entered Warwick between the present highway and the south county road now known as White Road. It met the present Northfield road where it crosses Grace Brook and followed the present road to where the Wendell road now meets it. Here the toll house, now owned by Earl Joslin, was located. The turnpike corporation built the road now known as Rouvere Hill to meet the Orange road, now Route 78. The tavern of David Mayo stood where Albert Ohlson's house now stands. From here the road ran across the south end of the

town common land, across the present Fellows Athletic Field and continued east and southeast until it crossed the present Gale Road about one half mile north of Gale Pond. It continued east until it met the present Hastings Heights road, which the corporation built to North Orange village. A few years later it abandoned the road between the Gale road and the Hastings Heights road and extended Gale Road to the Orange line as a turnpike road.

In June, 1803 the corporation was authorized to build a turnpike road from Winchester, New Hampshire, to the Warwick turnpike. (Mass. Special laws, Vol. III, p. 217) This road made use of existing town roads for the most part. The present Winchester road, Route 78, was followed south as far as where the cross road from the old Winchester road meets it at the present home of Oscar Doane, Jr. It then went up this road, crossed the old Winchester road, and then followed approximately the same route as where the old Robbins Road was to be laid out later. Meeting the Richmond road it ran south to Mayo's Four Corners and then over Hastings Heights to join the Northfield turnpike to Orange.

A group of prominent Warwick citizens desired to have the turnpike from Winchester, which was to be the main road to Brattleboro, pass through the center of Warwick and extend south to intersect the south turnpike road from Greenfield to Athol in what is now West Orange. As a result of their efforts the legislature passed an act January 1, 1804, establishing "The Warwick and Irvings Gore Turnpike Corporation." The incorporators consisted of Isreal Trask, Josiah Cobb, Jacob Rich, Oliver Chapin, Benjamin Tuel, Zackeriah Barber, Mark Moore, Andrew Burnet, Ebenezer Willson, William Cobb, Jr., Elias Knowlton, Josiah Pomeroy, Jr., Justus Russell, Joshua Burnet, Joseph Williams, Bunyan Penniman, Samuel Melindy and James Blake. They were authorized to build a road from the Winchester line south to the meeting house and from thence by Benjamin Tuel's mills to the south turnpike. (Mass. Special laws, Vol. III, p. 289)

William Cobb, Jr., and Captain Simonds were given the con-

tract for the north end of the road from the meeting house to the intersection of the Winchester turnpike to Orange, near the present residence of Oscar Doane, Jr. There is no record that shows that any attempt was made to extend this road south as a turnpike road. (Cobb Diaries, 1804-1827).

It would appear that the Fifth Massachusetts Corporation continued to use the road it had built through Mayo's Four Corners and over Hastings Heights. Jonas Hastings opened a tavern in 1804 on this road where the turnpike met the present Richmond road.

A new county road was laid out from Northfield through Warwick village to the Royalston line in 1800 by Nathaniel Gove Stevens. This road followed the Northfield Brook at approximately the location of the present highway, but about 50 rods south of the old north county road, until it met the south end of the Flower Hill road. It then followed the old road skirting the south edge of Mount Grace until it met the Northfield turnpike road at Grace Brook. Then it followed the present road up the hill to Mayo's tavern in the upper village. From the tavern the road turned north until it passed the meeting house, then turned east and followed what is now the Athol road directly to Mayo's Corners. The Royalston road from Mayo's Corners remained as originally laid out and accepted in 1771, and has never been changed to the present day.

The increasing and shifting population as first one section of the town and then another grew more rapidly caused continual adjustments to be made in the district school system and the highway districts. The division of the school and highway appropriations was a continual subject of controversy and impossible to solve to everyone's satisfaction. Well might the clerk write in the records as he once did that the committee was instructed to find the best solution "for the peace and tranquility of the town."

If local problems were not enough there were also those of the state and the nation. Political parties were coming into being, all dividing the people in a democratic way and contributing to progress but not to peace. The town was evenly divided between the Federalists, the party of Washington, Adams and Hamilton

and the Anti-Federalists or Democratic Republicans of Jefferson, Burr, Madison and Monroe. Party politics do not appear to have played a prominent role in town affairs, but in the election of a town representative to the state legislature they did. To send a representative was a luxury the town could ill afford and occasionally it voted not to do so. However it was the highest honor the town could give, and it was eagerly sought and bitterly contested. Squire Blake gives an excellent description of the election to this office in 1805.

The law pertaining to state and national elections required that a citizen must be a resident for one year prior to the election and he must have a freehold estate within the town of the annual income of ten dollars, or any estate to the value of $200. Blake tells that on election day there were very few who could not show an estate of $200 although the day before and the day after you could not collect a just debt of five dollars. Each party or candidate canvassed the town and brought in every person possible, even the aged and the sick who could be persuaded to leave their beds and vote. The meeting was opened by reading and correcting the voting list, each party being distrustful of the other and each determined to win. The conduct of the presiding officers was watched with suspicious minds behind eagle eyes and there would be bitter imprecations on whatever decisions were made. The citizens from the district of Orange joined with those of Warwick and they too were equally divided.

We use the name Democratic Republican to designate the party in opposition to the Federalists. From 1796 the Anti-Federalists took the name Republicans until under Thomas Jefferson they became the Democratic Republicans. It is not to be confused with the present Republican party which was born just prior to the Civil War.

It was decided that the voters should leave the meeting house and form in two separate parallel lines behind their leaders. Then the Selectmen carried the ballot box to each man in the lines so all could see that no one voted more than once. It could hardly be considered a secret ballot for all knew how his relatives, friends and neighbors voted from the line they joined. Ebenezer

Williams, Esq., the candidate of the Democratic Republicans, received 148 votes and Caleb Mayo, Esq., the Federalist, received 154. The following year Mayo was defeated by Josiah Cobb, Esq. (Blake, History, p. 89)

Yes, indeed, life in Warwick was not humdrum. Turning to William Cobb's diaries we find the year 1804 particularly exciting. On February 10 Cobb and the selectmen discovered the tax collector had made alterations in his accounts. Arrested and released on his father's bond he had promptly absconded.

> March 2: New England blizzard leaves 14" more snow which together with previous storms now is estimated to be five feet on the level.
>
> July 4: The day being the birthday of our Independence the inhabitants of Warwick, Winchester, Northfield and Orange, having agreed to a suspension of all political sentiments and party spirit, mutually assembled and partook of the festive joy of the day. A procession was formed at Ebenezer Willson's tavern and was escorted to the meeting house by Capt. Gale and twenty-four men in complete uniform attended by instrumental music . . . The solemnities were introduced by prayer and an Oration truly impressive was given by Samuel C. Allen, Esq., after which the procession returned and partook of a dinner prepared for the purpose, and drank nineteen toasts offered by Ebenezer Williams. At the close of each toast a platoon was fired and a tune from the band.

It was the practice to rotate this annual celebration among the four towns. The following year it was held in Winchester.

"Sept. 6: E. Willson set out for Boston with a drove of cattle."

It seems that Ebenezer Willson, who owned the large tavern in the upper village, in common with all rural tavernkeepers turned his efforts in any direction that promised a financial reward. Country taverns, while common, were usually a sideline to accommodate occasional travelers. The presence of the head of the house was not required. Ebenezer also owned a farm, but he found that buying cattle and other live stock and driving the herd over the dusty road to Boston for sale to the slaughter houses was a profitable occupation.

The "drover" with his assistants and dogs would drive the herd during the daylight, pasture them at night at some prearranged place, and proceed the following day. The average trip to Boston took ten days. It was a rugged trip filled with many anxious moments and requiring unrelenting vigilance. But on the return trip home the drover had to be even more on his guard because the fact that he was carrying a well-filled purse would be known to many desperate characters.

His drive in September being successful, early in October Willson sold his farm and went to Shoreham, Vermont, where he bought 122 "fat cattle." He arrived in Warwick with his large herd October 11 and left the following day for Boston. On October 22 he returned home saying that he had "lost his pocketbook containing $1300 in bank notes . . . he soon found it but it was destitute of money." His many angry and suspicious creditors secured writs of attachment on his property but, forewarned, Willson "cut down his tavern sign and shut his house." A few days later the sheriff, watching an opportunity, slipped into the tavern and attached his property. Two months later another drover, Ebenezer Jewell of Winchester, New Hampshire, was robbed of $420 in Leominster. The final ending to the story is found under the date July 25, 1805, when Cobb records "Stephen Ball and James Holden take over the tavern formerly owned by E. Willson."

"Sept. 11, 1805: informed by Representative Chapin that the papers for establishing a Post Office in Warwick were in his hands to be delivered to such a person as he should appoint and gave me the offer to take them which I accepted." Thus Cobb became Warwick's first postmaster, a service that was to continue for 48 years.

We give a few more items because they portray life in the early 1800's so concisely.

"Sept. 30, 1805: Nine children lie dead this morning in Richmond and the corner of Winchester and Warwick." In the next few days five more children in Warwick died of "disentery." "Nov. 19, 1805: William Dike set out for Boston with a load of chestnuts." This is the first mention of an enterprise that was

described in a diary kept by James Goldsbury, Jr., a district schoolteacher in 1857. He bought the chestnuts gathered by the school children and shipped them to Boston by the bushel and sold them at a handsome profit.

Cobb's principal business was his store and post office, but he passed up no opportunity to earn a dollar. His wife took in boarders and doubtless ran the store and post office in his absence. Aside from his office of town treasurer he took an exceedingly active interest in town politics and church and school affairs. He was the supply sergeant for the militia companies, built roads for the Fifth Massachusetts Turnpike Corporation, wrote legal papers, established a carding manufacturing business which failed, acted as an agent for several inventions and sold fire insurance.

He made frequent trips to Boston to purchase merchandise for his store. In those days this was a two day journey each way, usually stopping over for the night in Lancaster.

In 1808 a divisional muster of all the militia regiments in the western part of the state was held in Hadley. The town voted that each officer and man from Warwick who participated should be paid one dollar. Cobb attended and wrote a long and graphic account of the occasion which consisted of a review and a sham battle. Two brigades, each composed of five regiments of foot, one regiment of artillery and one of cavalry, participated. The affair went off in a "most beautiful and warlike manner."

Only the records of the South Militia Company from 1808 to 1831 have been preserved and they give just a glimpse of militia life of the period. Apparently each company consisted of from 50 to 60 men who assembled from two to three times a year for drill and inspection. In the fall of each year a regimental review would be held in some town. The knapsacks would receive a fresh coat of paint, the uniforms be overhauled and the muskets cleaned and polished. Each company would strive to make the best impression on the public who would set out early in the morning for the muster field. After the review was over an ample supply of "firewater" was available and the day would usually close with an athletic contest to see who could outrun, outjump and outwrestle his opponents.

Rivalry was keen between the north and south companies, and Cobb often describes the annual squirrel hunt between teams picked from the two companies. Twelve men from each would spend the day hunting squirrels. At the end of the day the game killed would be exhibited and the winner would be declared. Apparently strict adherence to the rules was not always observed because Cobb, on September 27, 1826, tells that much dissatisfaction was expressed because there was reason to believe that Joel Jennings and John Watts did not kill all the game they exhibited. Fortunately war was not declared between the north and south companies and the killing was confined to the squirrels.

Doubtless these militia activities were stimulated by the war then in progress between England and France. Both nations were attempting to prevent trade between the United States and their enemy. Each was guilty of interfering with American shipping but public sympathy was in favor of France, and her actions were belittled while those of England were exaggerated. In December, 1807, President Jefferson proclaimed an embargo forbidding all foreign trade in the belief that this would cause the belligerents to cease their interference.

This action raised a storm of protest among the New England states because it was ruinous to their commercial enterprises. Warwick joined with Boston in voting to send a resolution to President Jefferson asking for the repeal of the embargo. Caleb Mayo, Josiah Pomeroy, Josiah Proctor, Justus Russell and Jonathan Blake, Jr., presented the resolution which was adopted unanimously, and the selectmen were instructed to sign it and send it to the President.

No further reference to national affairs appears in the town records until the War of 1812. Cobb's diaries, too, are missing for the years 1809, 1810 and 1811. But from January, 1812, he continually describes events as they came to his ears and records his and the town's reactions.

Histories tell us, and Cobb confirms it, that the war with England was unpopular with the majority of the people in New England. On Jan. 27, 1812, he writes: "A majority of the members of Congress favor War with Great Britain. They consider

that Great Britain has and still continues to trample on our rights as a Neutral Nation which ought to be resisted without deliberation or calculation of expense. The minority think War a hasty step and that all its attendant evils ought to be contemplated."

April 3, 1812, Cobb writes: "The Washington Benevolent Society held a meeting in Warwick and received twenty-five new members. Societies under this institution are rapidly forming in New Hampshire and Vermont. They are strenuously opposed by the leading Republicans as a political measure." The societies were principally made up of the Federalists and without question opposed the war and harassed the federal government with petitions complaining against this, to them, unnecessary step and the hardships suffered by the people of Massachusetts.

Governor Strong refused to order the state militia to join with the federal troops in the invasion of Canada, and as a result all federal soldiers were withdrawn from seaport garrisons. The militia was only used to protect the state. (Barry, History of Mass., Vol III)

On June 18 the news that war had been declared reached Warwick. A town meeting was called for on June 30 to "take into consideration the alarming condition of our Country in consequence of the Declaration of War." It was voted to send Caleb Mayo, Esq., to a convention at Northampton July 14 "to deliberate on the perilous condition of our country and to further act as the crisis may demand." (Barry, History of Mass. Vol. II, p. 175) A report of the convention was made at the following town meeting but no further action was taken by the town. Nevertheless after the declaration of war, seven men were detached from each of the north and south militia companies to stand ready to march at a moment's notice.

In the national election of 1812 Warwick cast 111 votes for DeWitt Clinton, the Federalist candidate for president, and 49 for Madison. Vermont was the only New England state to vote for Madison and the Republican party.

A constant concern over the defenceless position of the ports along the New England coast disturbed the people throughout

the war. Militia detachments were called for to be stationed in these ports to repel any invasion from English warships. When, in September, 1814, a British fleet of 30 ships appeared at Castine, Maine and attacked the town, Governor Strong called for militia for the defense of Boston. Each of the two Warwick companies were called upon to detach 14 men to assemble in New Salem on September 12. The records of the south company commanded by Captain William Burnet list the following as detached: Ebenezer Stearns (ensign), Ebenezer Barber (sarg.), Ephraim Tuel, Manning Wheelock, Jonas Leonard, Willard Packard, Dexter Fisk, David Gale, Jr., Stephen Ball, William Boule, Abijah Eddy, Jonas Conant, Samuel Abbot, Peter Warwick, Daniel Smith and Artemas Baker (privates). The records of the north company are not available but Blake's history mentions Abner Goodale (ensign), Nathan Atwood, Stephen Williams, Joseph Williams, Joseph Williams, Jr., James Ball, Jr., Samuel Ball 2nd, Ezra Ripley, Eli Stockwell and — Maxwell, Stephen Gale, Benoni Ballou, George Joseph, Joseph Joseph and James Fuller. These men served about two months.

A number of men enlisted in the army among whom were John Ager, George Stockwell, Henry Whipple, — Parmenter (privates); Benjamin Eddy (drum major) and Obadiah Bass (musician). These men marched to Niagara Falls July 14, 1814 and took part in the Battle of Lundy's Lane July 25. (Dr. Gardner Hill, Address)

On February 14, 1815, Cobb relates that news of peace with Great Britain arrived in Warwick and "caused great joy."

On July 1, 1812, the Rev. Samuel Reed died after a ministry of 33 years that had been marked by faithful and devoted service to his parish. As a mark of final respect the town arranged an impressive funeral. Sixteen ministers from surrounding towns participated and Cobb tells us 430 persons formed the funeral procession. Later the town voted $200 to defray the funeral expenses and provide pulpit supplies for the remainder of the year. Reverend Reed owned the home built by his predecessor, Lemuel Hedge, and the house continued in the possession of his descendants until 1925.

In June, 1814 the town voted to extend a call to the Reverend Preserved Smith and granted him a salary of $500. He was ordained as pastor of the First Congregational Church and Society on October 12. Thus began a long pastorate that was to last for 30 years. Reverend Smith took a prominent part in school affairs, serving on the superintendent or visiting school committee, and also took a leading role in several social organizations. After the death of his wife he married Tryphena Goldsbury in 1823; she died twelve years later.

His home was first located on the old Fifth Massachusetts Turnpike Road on the section that lay between Gale Road and the south end of the town common. When this road was abandoned in 1827 he had his house moved to its present location on the Athol road. In 1934 it was converted into the Metcalf Memorial Chapel by the Trinitarian Congregational Society.

Shortly after he was installed as pastor he turned toward the Unitarian doctrine then rapidly spreading throughout New England. He was successful in converting the majority of his congregation, but the minority withdrew and organized the Trinitarian Congregational Church in 1829.

In the northern end of the oldest section of Warwick cemetery there stands a stone that not only marks a grave but is also a monument to an industry that began with the wildest of hopes and died with the deepest despair. One reads the inscription and learns that here lies "Abel Minard (glass blower) who died Oct. 31, 1814, age 31 years. Erected by his brother workmen." The monument is one of the few remaining mementos of the Franklin Glass Company described by Jonathan Blake in his history as "that presumptuous adventure." Its failure was to be ruinous to many worthy citizens.

The story begins with the coming to Warwick of Doctor Ebenezer Hall in 1805. His early history is unknown but he must have had some medical training because the title of doctor was attached to him from the start. Warwick was already served by three doctors, Benjamin Hazeltine. and Doctors Metcalf and Prentice, and perhaps this competition caused Hall to accept the position as teacher of the winter term of school on Flower Hill. William

(top) Howard house, Bootshop and Inn about 1885
(bottom) Town Hall and Warwick Inn, from the same spot in 1962

(top) Fay's Tavern (the "Beehive") in 1890
(bottom) A view in the Center, about 1920

Cobb speaks of his excellent ability as a teacher. March 10, 1806, we find in the diary, "Doctor Hall came to my house wishing to be boarded with the intention to tarry and practice physick."

It is apparent that he was a personable young man with a superior education and the ability to impress the townspeople favorably. He won the hand of the daughter of Jacob Rich, a prominent citizen and considered the most affluent. Hall was elected to the office of town clerk from 1808 to 1811.

About 1810 Hall, who had some knowledge of the manufacture of glass, conceived the idea that Warwick would be an ideal place for such an enterprise. Window glass was still an expensive item and with no nearby competition a ready market was at hand. So with a persuasive tongue he influenced many of the town's most prosperous men to organize the Franklin Glass Company in 1812.

An enterprise of this magnitude required the construction of several buildings. Land on both sides of the Orange road at the foot of Cemetery Hill was bought. The building housing the melting furnaces was built on the east side of the road, where the Dresser residence now stands and on the former site of the Trinitarian Congregational Church. The property extended north and included the residence of Joseph Stevens, which was built to house a sales and stockroom. On the west side of the road the home of Miss Katherine Bass was built for James Symes, the first superintendent or foreman in charge of the actual manufacture. South of this house a long building containing three tenements was erected to accommodate the experienced workmen necessary for the project. Only one third of this building now stands, the present residence of Ralph Matthews.

Among the incorporators were Ebenezer Hall, who was elected general superintendent, William Cobb, president, Jacob Rich, Benjamin Tuel, Ebenezer Williams and Samuel Fay. Fay was to serve as agent for the company and Richard Wastcoat was the first treasurer.

In the spring of 1813 five glass blowers were induced to come from Rensselaer, New York, on the payment of a bonus of $100 and the promise of a high scale of wages. It was now found that

local clay was not adapted to the manufacture of glass, and Hall left for Philadelphia to buy clay to be transported at great expense to Warwick. By summer the first loading of the furnace was begun only to have it give way, and the entire batch was lost. A second attempt was successful and on Sunday, September 5, the first blowing took place.

Advertisements were placed in the Greenfield papers offering window glass of all sizes for sale. Now Hall, who had sold out his medical practice to Doctor Joel Burnett, left for Woodstock, New York, where he paid $500 for a formula and instructions for another type of glass. Symes now left Warwick, and Abel Minard succeeded him as foreman of the company. However one mishap after another occurred and the production and sale of glass failed to meet the operating expenses. Minard's death in October added to the difficulties. Creditors began pressing for payment, and on January 31, 1815 Cobb, whose health was being affected, resigned as president, director and treasurer. Apparently he reconsidered or found it was not easy to step out from under the responsibility, for he continued.

Samuel Fay, one of the investors, was now deeply in debt and he attached the land owned by the company. Other creditors immediately followed suit and all the property was attached.

The company was now reorganized, new stockholders having been found to buy shares. Ebenezer Hall was chosen as clerk, Jonathan Blake, Esq., was elected president and first director, Richard Wastcoat, Ebenezer Williams, Esq., E. Nickerson and Abner Goodell were directors. Jonathan Blake, Esq., replaced Cobb as treasurer. But the change brought no improvement and in May an assessment of $125 a share was laid on the stockholders, many of whom tried to dispose of their stock fearing their private property would be attached.

In October the property of the company was again attached, and on November 18 the last furnace of melted glass failed and the sorry affair was ended. The following spring the property was sold at public auction to Captain Mark Moore. Moore at once sold one-third of the property to Nickerson, one-eighth to Richard Wastcoat, one-eighth to Jonathan Blake, one-eighth to

Moses Daniel and one-sixth to William Cobb, Ball and Hastings being partners with Cobb in the purchase.

With these men a new company was formed under the name of Nickerson, Cobb & Company for the purpose "to run the furnace while it lasted" and thus salvage as much as possible. But two months later the cap of the furnace "failed" and the business stopped.

Ebenezer Hall now accepted the position of superintendent of a glass company in Keene, New Hampshire. A few months later he took a similar office in Woodstock, New York, where it is said he was successful through the experience he acquired at the expense of the people of Warwick. The town never recovered from the disaster. From this point its decline began.

The year 1821 was to remain long in the memory of the inhabitants of Warwick and the events of Sunday September 9, a story to be told often to succeeding generations. Never before or since has the town experienced a tornado nor does it wish to. Cobb describes it in his diary:

> Experienced a desolating Tornado which commenced in the highlands east of the Connecticut River and ended at Tully Mountain in Orange, passing about a mile south of the center of the town. About 6 P.M. a small black cloud was discovered in the west in great commotion. From this cloud a very dense vapor extended to the earth in a cylindrical form which took a whirling motion attended with a powerful suction that raised everything from the ground with a noise like distant thunder shaking the earth to a distance of two or three miles. Its march was grand and awe full sweeping in its course, which was from twenty to one hundred and twenty rod wide, everything came in its way. Trees, buildings, fences and stonewalls were indiscriminately twisted like feathers in the air. Stones of many hundred weight were moved from their beds and the earth torn up as with plow shares. Five Dwelling houses, thirteen barns were destroyed or unroofed. The houses of Mr. Garland and Chapin Holden in Northfield, the house of Mr. Wilson and Mr. Brown in Warwick and the house of Capt. Moses Smith in Orange were destroyed. The persons who were in the houses had no time to meditate on means of safety and

many were involved in the ruins much bruised and wounded. A daughter of Mr. Brown, age thirteen, and a young woman in the home of Capt. Smith, age twenty, were taken up lifeless from under the rubbish. Great quantities of wood and timber were destroyed. Fragments of buildings, clothing, sheaves of grain, etc., were found twenty miles from this place.

Nature and time long ago removed all traces of the event and today the only memento that remains stands over the grave of little Rebecca Brown. We read the epitaph:

Look blooming youth and make a pause
And ponder well your road;
From youth by whirlwind Called I was
To stand before my God.

And as we stand here and look around us we can read many a story in these old epitaphs that tell so much of the way of life and the character of these early pioneers who settled here in the wilderness and struggled to build a home for themselves and their descendants. Surely they deserve the right to leave us their words of advice and warning. But one Anna Barnes who died in 1818, age 55, expresses no doubt the last thought of many at the end of the rough road:

Low in the ground my bed is made;
Here in the dust alone I'm laid.
Depart, my friend, and let me rest.
I'm tired of this wilderness.

Industrial Development Prior to 1825

Very little information about the early industries of Warwick has been recorded. Assessors' records begin in 1802, but no description of real or personal estate was recorded until 1825. Only casual mention of these industries can be found in the minutes of town meetings or elsewhere and only the descriptions of road layouts occasionally mention their location. The one exception consists of two papers showing real and personal appraisals in the year 1778, and these list industries under the general classification "Mills of all sorts." From these papers and various other clues we can say that of the 11 mills mentioned at that time three were doubtless grist mills and the remainder sawmills.

It is believed that the first grist and sawmill erected by the Proprietors and operated by David Ayres at the pond on the Rum Brook road came into possession of Captain John Goldsbury and his son, Colonel James, shortly after they settled here about 1770. They owned it in 1778 and it was probably operated by them until the death of the father in 1802.

Locke's saw mill south of Moores Pond was acquired by Jedu-than Morse and on his death in 1776 his widow, the sister of Francis Leonard, sold it to her brother. It was totally destroyed by fire in 1802. Leonard rebuilt and the mill was taken over by his son-in-law, George W. Moore about 1840 and continued until 1885.

A second grist mill was built as early as 1768 by the first David Gale on the brook that bears his name.

Benjamin Tuel arrived in Warwick as early as 1771 and set-tled near the foot of Barber Hill in the southern part of the town. Here he erected a sawmill and had a thriving business until about 1810, besides being active in several other enterprises.

In 1778 Ebenezer Foskett had acquired possession of the saw-mill in what was soon to be part of Orange. This mill was built by Jonathan Woodward about 1770 and it continued to operate to some extent until it burned in 1924.

Samuel, Daniel and Abner Shearman had a sawmill and prob-ably a grist mill on what is now Kidder Brook where it crosses the old Winchester road. Asa Conant bought the sawmill and Jonas Conant had a grist mill here in 1800 and as late as 1824.

The Rich brothers, Nathaniel, Thomas and Jacob, each had a sawmill. Nathaniel's mill was probably located on the east end of Stevens Pond, and it was here that his nephew Charles operated a mill until about 1820. The record of a town road laid out in 1770 from Gale's mill northeast to the mill of Thomas Rich would indicate that Thomas erected the first mill near or at the location of Josiah Conant's mill known to exist on the south-eastern end of Gale's Pond. Rich left town in 1787, and Conant was a resident as early as 1789. Jacob built his sawmill in the north end of the town on Mirey Brook opposite his home. The ruins of the old dam washed away in the flood of 1869 can still be seen.

All of these mills required the building of dams to provide a constant flow of water, and many of these mills ended their existence when severe rains produced flood conditions that washed away the dams. Today the broken dams and stone foundations can still testify to the existence of these early industries.

Several references are found to show that bricks were made at two places from about 1790 to 1825. One was the brick yard and kiln belonging to Ebenezer Bancroft, who lived on the old Winchester road just north of Kidder brook. It is mentioned in the old District 8 school records as lying north of the old brick schoolhouse. Josiah Proctor, son of old Captain Peter, also had a brick yard a few rods west of where Chase Road meets the Athol road. The Athol road was laid out in 1827 from Mayo's Corners to pass the brick yard and then to follow the brook down the hill, passing Sheomet Pond and continuing on to Athol. Doubtless these brickyards supplied most of the bricks used in Warwick houses, and when the demand diminished they ceased to be profitable and were abandoned.

Justus Russell, taking advantage of the abundant supply of hides from domestic animals, built a tannery about 1800 on the Winchester turnpike, now Route 78. The tannery was just south of the residence of A. J. Morris, which house was built by Russell. The business was continued by his son Edward until about 1855.

A second tannery was located on Grace Brook at the foot of what is still known as Tannery Hill. It is believed to have been built prior to 1830 by Nathan C. Moore.

John Moore also is mentioned as the owner of a grist mill on the Northfield Brook in 1799. He lost his house and mill by fire in 1808 in the night, his family barely escaping with their lives.

At the turn of the century other sawmills are mentioned as operated by Peter Proctor, Isaac Robbins, Absolom and James Ball, and Abijah Eddy.

In common with all rural communities of the period which were forced to provide most of the necessities of life by their own efforts, the weaving of homespun yarn into cloth to be made into

garments was a prime concern. The raising of flax and the carding of wool from sheep required looms to weave the thread into cloth. While most of the farmers had spinning wheels to keep the wives and young girls from enjoying any idle moments, and many had small hand-operated looms in the homes, there was a demand for the manufacture of cloth on a larger scale. To fill this need Jacob Rich erected a shop for this purpose on the east side of the Winchester road opposite the Russell tannery.

William Cobb, of course, was involved in partnership with Jacob for a few years. Evidently at one period the shop specialized in the manufacture of black satin or "negro cloth" for we find it mentioned as the satinet shop.

Cobb decided that there was a demand for the maunfacture of cards, a hand tool for combing, opening and breaking wool or flax to prepare it for spinning. As a result he erected a card factory in 1812 for this purpose on the Northfield turnpike hill a few rods south of Fay's tavern. It does not appear to have been profitable and Cobb, deeply involved in the glass company, soon gave up the card business. George Mason took over the building and attempted to make shoes, but he went into bankruptcy in 1824.

A second clothing shop was opened by Melzar Williams on a branch of Grace Brook, about 20 rods south of his home at the junction of the Wendell and Northfield roads. The account books kept by Melzar, now in the possession of Fred Lincoln, show he did an extensive business manufacturing cloth and dyeing it in the desired color for many of the people in Warwick and the surrounding towns from 1830 to 1845.

Early blacksmith services were supplied by John Leonard and Josiah Pomeroy prior to 1800. After that date we find the names of Levi Stimpson, Thomas Mallard, Silas Mosman, Charles Haynes and several transients who worked in the shops owned by Samuel Fay and Lemuel Wheelock.

10

PROGRESS BYPASSES WARWICK, 1826-1860

PREVIOUSLY WE HAVE TOLD how the Athol and Royalston road was built in 1800. This was laid out from the north side of the second meeting house eastward to Mayo's Corners. Four years later the Warwick and Irvings Gore Turnpike Corporation built the road from the meeting house through the "Gulf" northward for two miles to intersect the Brattleboro Turnpike.

The Fifth Massachusetts Turnpike Corporation which had built the turnpike from Athol to Northfield through the old upper village of Warwick, and also the turnpike to Brattleboro through Mayo's Corners, now saw the advantage in combining the two turnpikes from Athol to Warwick by acquiring these new roads and extending Gale Road from a short distance north of Gale's Pond to the present Athol Road. This was done in 1826, and then the Brattleboro turnpike road over Hastings Heights was turned over to the town. The section of the Northfield turnpike from Gale Road west past the south end of the town common land to the old tavern was also abandoned.

The following year the Turnpike Corporation built the road on the east side of what is now the town park, and then the turnpike to Brattleboro followed the road down through the Gulf. Now all stage coach travel, bringing with it the mail, would pass through the village but at some distance from the old tavern and the post office.

David Mayo's tavern had passed through several owners until it finally was acquired by Samuel Fay in 1815. Cobb's store and post office stood next to the tavern on the west side. Now these locations were no longer suitable as it became evident that the future expansion of the village would be toward the north. The old upper village as it was soon called was to become of secondary importance.

Doctor Amos Taylor had acquired considerable land north and east of the town common. He now found his land along the new highway in great demand and he sold an acre for $187.50 to Samuel Fay on which Fay was to build a new tavern. Colonel Lemuel Wheelock bought three-quarters of an acre across the turnpike and erected a store where the town hall now stands, then closed his old store on the abandoned turnpike. Fay raised the frame of his tavern May 10, 1827 and on December 13 he opened for business. Cobb meanwhile had begun to erect his store and post office adjacent to the tavern on the east side.

The previous year, 1826, James Goldsbury, the son of the Colonel, had built the present Goldsbury homestead for his bride on the site of Doctor Medad Pomeroy's old home. Lemuel Wheelock now bought the home of Doctor Taylor, moved it a few rods to the east, and built his new home on the site opposite the new tavern in 1828.

Two year later Reverend Preserved Smith, who had built a new house on the now abandoned turnpike west of Gale Road, decided to move his house to the village. With the aid of his parishioners and 20 yoke of oxen he moved it nearly a mile across muddy fields to its new foundation between Cobb's store and the Goldsbury house. The difficulties encountered in this project are described at length by Mary P. Wells Smith, a noted author and wife of the minister's son. Her story *Jolly Good Times at Hackmatack* gives an excellent description of life in Warwick in the early days of the 19th century.

The village blacksmith shop was moved to what is now the town park. The "lower village," as it was called, now was to enjoy a building boom to include several houses along the Winchester Road, the Unitarian Church in particular, the present summer residence of George Cook in 1836, and the Baptist Church in 1844.

The first stage from Brattleboro to stop at the new tavern arrived at 4:30 A.M. on December 15, 1827, and Cobb was on hand to open the mail. January 1, 1828 another stage carrying mail driven by Captain Putnam of New Salem began to stop on its route from Ware to Keene, New Hampshire. This stage went

north on Monday and Fridays, returning the following day, and the mail contract was $550 a year. Cobb himself carried the mail between Warwick and Northfield.

But the life of the turnpikes was drawing to a close when the Fifth Massachusetts Turnpike Corporation relocated its roads in 1826 and 1827. In 1829 the County took over both the Brattleboro and Northfield turnpikes when, it is said, only $15 remained in the Corporation treasury.

During the years that followed, until the advent of the railroad put an end to the stagecoach, the routes changed frequently but the tavern was the center around which the town revolved. The arrival of the stage was eagerly awaited. Usually the horses were changed for fresh ones. The travelers could alight, stretch their cramped limbs and refresh themselves at the bar before resuming their place in the stage.

Thus the Warwick Inn, as we know it today, began its many years of service to the public. During these years the ownership has changed hands frequently. During its first 100 years some 40 different parties have possessed it, some for less than a year; others leased it or served as hired landlords. Fay had no sooner opened it for business than his wife died of consumption, and he sold it immediately. During the days of the stagecoach it prospered and expanded. In 1828 Fay, who no longer owned it, agreed to build a hall 60 feet long by 21 feet wide over the horse sheds on the north end of the tavern. This hall served the town for community gatherings of all kinds for a century. Dances, wedding receptions, farewell parties for departing soldiers were held here; religious services were conducted by the Universalists and the Baptists. The latter used it during the construction of their church in 1844. After the second meeting house was razed in 1836 all town meetings were held here, and many heated discussions occurred within its four walls until the town hall was finally built.

The closing of the stage routes and the consequent loss of business caused a group of five Warwick men to sell the tavern to Lemuel Scott in 1852 for $800, half the price they had paid for it five years previously. Scott changed the horse stalls and wagon

sheds under the hall into quarters for a store and post office. When Scott died suddenly in 1858 Colonel Benjamin Putnam, who had run a tavern in North Orange, bought the Shaomet House, as it was then called, and changed the name to Putnam's Hotel. Forrest Goldsbury acquired the property in 1867 and he added a second floor over the one story ell on the east side.

The old Fay Tavern in the upper village was turned into a tenement house and came to be called both the "Bee Hive" and the "Big House." Finally neglected and falling into decay, it was abandoned and in 1896 it burned to the ground during the night.

The year 1826 was a disastrous year for the farmers. The spring was extremely cold and a long protracted dry period followed. Finally the rain came, and when crops were flourishing huge hordes of locusts swarmed out of the west and proceeded to devour the crops. Cobb, on July 29, calls them grasshoppers and writes that they "continue their depredations on the crops in an unexampled degree. Many fields of spring grain have been mown for fodder to save the remnant that the grasshoppers have not devoured."

Occasionally Cobb mentions the activities of one Captain Daniel N. Smith, and the opinion is soon formed that Warwick has a man with an inventive genius. He finally turns his efforts toward the developing of a machine called a revolving timber plane. Lacking a detailed description we believe that here in Warwick the invention of the revolving plane so widely used today was born.

Just as all men of genius are expected to be, Smith was a man with no business ability and on several occasions he was committed to jail for debt. Despite this he persevered and secured Cobb to act as his agent, with the result that a patent was secured January 15, 1827. From this time on he seems to have had financial backing and on March 29, 1828 Cobb writes: "Mr. Knowlton of Pittsfield called on me to examine the timber plane with a view of obtaining liberty to build the machine in Pittsfield." Apparently he was successful, for Smith erected a machine in Pittsfield in May. Laban B. Proctor of Warwick now became a

salesman for the machine and went to Pittsfield. He soon sold a machine in Rochester, and a machine was set up in David Young's shop in Athol. Smith now sold his wheelwright shop, the old glass factory store, to Lemuel Wheelock, but he continued to reside in Warwick. He erected a machine in Lowell, but on his return home he spent three days in jail until securing his release.

On December 20, 1831 Cobb received a letter from Proctor and Smith stating that machines were being set up in Baltimore to plane timbers for railroad cars. Others were sold in Norfolk and Philadelphia. Now with the venture an assured financial success, Smith moved out of his residence over his shop to a house where he lived until the family left town about 1836. It is interesting to note that his new home was bought in his daughter's name doubtless to avoid any possible legal attachment.

In 1835 Smith set up his planing machine at Fay's shop and Cobb describes it as "calculated to plane, tongue and groove floor boards. The boards move by rollers instead of a carriage." (Diary, May 14, 1835)

Captain Smith died in 1841 at 65 years of age and is buried in the Warwick cemetery. Many years later his children returned to Warwick for a family reunion. They climbed Mount Grace and at the top they found a huge boulder lying on the ground. They chiseled an inscription on the rock stating that the children of Captain D. N. Smith had held a reunion there and each child's name was inscribed. After each name was inscribed a book, chapter and verse of the Bible, the verse describing the child.

Years later the State mounted a bronze plaque on the rock which is near the base of the observation tower. However other visitors have added their names and dates, so little can be found of the Smith inscriptions. Perhaps it is too much to claim that Smith was the inventor of a machine that was to revolutionize the planing of lumber, but we believe the evidence in Cobb's Diaries justifies it.

BLAKE'S MAP OF 1830

Through an act of the legislature in 1830 the town was requested to have a map of the town made. This important task was given to a committee composed of Jonathan Blake, Esq., Justus Russell and Ashbel Ward, Esq. Blake was a surveyor of the best, and as a result of his fine work he has bequeathed to the town an excellent picture of Warwick as it existed at the height of population. It shows not only the natural features and the roads as they then existed, but locates the houses with the names of the owners, and most important of all the location and description of the industries. This map is reproduced as the rear end-paper of this volume.

The population of the town was at its peak of 1256 in the census of 1820. Following the collapse of the Franklin Glass Company, in which so many had suffered financial reverses, several prominent families moved away. The year 1824 was especially marked by many prominent men being forced into bankruptcy. Cobb, in his diary, lists 12 during that year alone. Nevertheless the census of 1830 gave 1150 inhabitants, but the tide was receding and with the opening of the west to immigration the decline was to continue.

Among the industries then functioning we find 12 sawmills and two more equipped to manufacture shingles, clapboards and pail staves; four grist mills to grind grain to flour; two tanneries to cure the hides of animals; two cabinet shops, three blacksmith shops and two more equipped with trip hammers for the manufacture of scythes, axes and cutting tools; one potash plant, an industry once quite prevalent in the area; two clothing shops where cloth was woven and prepared for local use.

The town then had only one church though it had three more religious societies. There were four stores, ten school houses and 188 houses (three uninhabited). All ponds are designated as natural or artificial. Of particular interest is the fact that timber or woodland is denoted, showing also land cleared for cultivation or pasturage. The large areas of open land, much of which has now reverted to woodland, shows that the many sawmills had,

by 1830, stripped the town of much of its timber and gradually caused many to close down.

In order that the reader may be familiar with some of the important leaders in town affairs, now coming to the front, a brief description of the most important will be given.

Jonathan Blake, Jr., has been mentioned as drawing the valuable map previously described. The son of a prominent citizen mentioned in connection with the ill-fated glass manufacturing venture, he was a man of many talents. He served ten years as town clerk, nine years as selectman, six years on the superintendent school committee, was the town's representative to the state constitutional convention in 1822, and a Justice of the Peace who apparently performed more marriages than Rev. Smith. He was a leader in church and social organizations, but his chief legacy to the town was his historical essays on the history of Warwick. These, after his death in 1864, the town voted to have printed as the history of Warwick in 1872.

Lemuel Wheelock was a man about whom the town was to revolve from about 1820 until his death in 1842 at the age of 51. He was the son of Eleazor Wheelock who settled on Beech Hill as early as 1775. The second of nine children, he married Rhoda Chamberlain, the daughter of a wealthy man in Winchester, and in many other ways had soon shown his ability to make money. He bought the store owned by Stephen Ball at the junction of the Hastings Pond road and the Northfield turnpike in 1820. Keeping clear of any involvement in the glass manufacturing fiasco he seemed to have ample funds to loan hard pressed citizens, always on good security. Thus by foreclosure and astute business methods he became owner of many farms and invested his money in several enterprises, all profitable. Many stories have been preserved that describe him as pompous, vain and with a very uncharitable disposition.

Mary P. Wells Smith tells in her story *Jolly Good Times at Hackmatack* the experience of the Reverend Preserved Smith who was the father of her husband. Daniel Webster at the height of his career stopped at the Warwick Inn, July 5, 1840, to rest

his horses and to dine on his way from Barre, Massachusetts to New Hampshire. Word was hastily sent to the prominent Whigs to come and meet this famous national hero. Much to the disgust of the Reverend, Lemuel Wheelock, an avowed Democrat, boldly pushed his way to the forefront and monopolized the attention of Webster.

Wheelock's influence was widespread. He became Lieutenant Colonel of the militia regiment and served the town as selectman from 1824 to 1830. He served as representative to the legislature on several occasions. In 1839 when the election of representative was legally held, 191 votes were cast. Wheelock received 82, Joel Pierce 77, and the remainder were so divided that the moderator ruled that, as Wheelock did not receive a majority of the votes cast, no choice had been made. It was then voted not to send a representative that year. Two weeks later another meeting was held and a motion to rescind this vote was passed 90 to 71. Ballots were immediately cast for representative and Wheelock received 92 votes. The opposition refused to vote, and Ashbel Ward and others challenged the election. (Town Rec., Vol. III).

Lemuel Wheelock expended $45.50 for legal fees in defense of his election and at the annual town meeting in 1840 a bitter fight ensued over the cost, but the final result was a vote to reimburse Wheelock 81 to 71. (Town Rec., Vol. IV). Ashbel Ward, who dared the wrath of the mighty Lemuel, himself served ten years as selectman, which testifies to his popularity in those days of annual elections to this office when changes were frequently made.

Shortly after the Reverend Preserved Smith had been installed as pastor he gradually began to accept the more liberal Unitarian doctrines that were becoming more and more popular. We have no accurate knowledge as to when he finally became converted and began to attempt to influence his parish to follow him. The majority of his parishioners were receptive, but a minority refused to be influenced and many withdrew. Some joined the church in Northfield but as their numbers increased they began to take steps to organize a Congregational Church based on the older more orthodox creed.

In 1829 the Trinitarian Congregational Church was organized and in 1833 they erected a church building on the east side of the road to Orange in the upper village where the furnaces of the Franklin Glass Company previously stood.

The meeting house under the charge of Reverend Smith was still supported by the town. However all who professed membership in other denominations were relieved of the town ministerial tax levied to support the pastor. The second meeting house, built in 1786, due to the difficulty of securing money under these conditions had fallen in a state of disrepair. The subject of repairs was debated furiously in 1828, and a committee was authorized to ascertain the best way to raise the necessary money "for the Peace and Tranquillity of the town." (Ref. Town Rec., Vol. II, p. 185)

From this year until 1834 the vote against supporting the minister grew until the opponents finally prevailed in that year. This ended for all time any control of church matters by the town.

The First Parish and Religious Society now took over the control of what was now the Unitarian Church. The old meeting house was now beyond repair, and the society began to make plans to build a new one. William Cobb writes in his diary that the building committee, Joseph Stevens, Jonathan Blake, Jr. and Samuel Moore, with Amory Mayo, parish clerk and Cobb as treasurer, met at his store and made a contract with Chapin Holden and Samuel Fay "to build the meeting house for $1700 all above the underpinning." The old meeting house was sold to Chapin Holden for $101 and after a farewell service in the old church July 17 the building was torn down. Apparently there was some belated question as to the location, for on July 25 Cobb writes that it had been decided to erect the new meeting house "on the west side of the road on town land."

When all was in readiness for the raising of the frame, the question as to whether it should be a wet or dry raising was debated. It was feared that a dry raising, with no liquid stimulants provided, would discourage the number of men necessary for the task from being present. However Holden insisted that

it be dry, and on September 8 and 9 the frame was raised with no accidents occurring. After the event 74 adjourned to Asa Taft's tavern to enjoy a dinner.

The first bell hung in the steeple soon cracked and, in all, four were raised before the present one proved satisfactory. The total cost of the Church was $3000, financed by the assessed value of pews sold for $2526, and the privilege of choosing one's pew was bid off, resulting in an additional sum of $406. The building was dedicated January 18, 1837.

Now that the town could boast ownership of a bell, a decided convenience for all, it was voted that the town should defray the expense of ringing the bell. The selectmen were authorized to contract for a bell ringer. The bell was to be rung before all church services and public meetings, on weekdays at twelve noon and at 9:00 P.M., and to be tolled on funeral occasions.

With four organized religious bodies now at least partially active, their subsequent history will be told in a later chapter.

As long as the town "supported preaching" it had the privilege of holding town meetings in the meeting house. Now denied this privilege an attempt was made to have a town hall built in 1836. However the vote was unfavorable and from that time until the present hall was built in 1894 town meetings were held in the hall attached to the rear of the Warwick Inn.

The year 1837 was outstanding in the nation's history when an event occurred that seems fantastic today with our everincreasing national debt. The federal government found that its revenue exceeded the cost of government and a substantial surplus had accumulated in the treasury. As a result money was returned to the states in proportion to the population. This in turn was divided among the cities and towns with Warwick's share amounting to $1676.74. At first it was voted to loan the money to citizens on proper security in sums between $100 and $200. Later it was voted to spend part of it to defray the cost of building the road from Warwick to Northfield.

Town expenditures voted in 1838 give a good picture of the value of the dollar, which was to remain constant until the days of the Civil War. Labor on the roads was to be paid eight cents

an hour, $600 was appropriated for schools, $1000 for support of the poor, $800 for repair of highways, and $100 for breaking out roads in winter. The support of the poor was put up at auction and this practice was to continue for many years.

Just when the temperance movement began is unknown but Cobb first mentions a society as already organized in 1830, and from that time on lectures on the evils of intoxicating drink were given frequently. A new temperance society was formed in 1834 with 280 members, and the Reverends Smith and Kingsbury were president and vice-president respectively, with Jonathan Blake, Jr. as secretary. Cobb, who sold spiritous liquors, was not a member.

In 1842 the Millerites, a religious organization that believed that the prophecies in the Book of Daniel foretold the end of the world in 1843, held meetings for 17 days in Warwick. The organization had some 50,000 members and, while Cobb mentions that there were many converts in surrounding towns, he fails to name any in Warwick.

Now we have arrived at the period when a drastic change in the transportation system had developed to the extent that it affected Warwick. We find the first mention in Cobb's diaries on March 1, 1829 of the advent of railroads that was to accelerate the development of the nation. It was in that year that the first grant of a franchise for a railroad was made in Massachusetts.

The Warwick Lyceum was a society founded for the purpose of hearing monthly lectures on various subjects and debating vital questions of the day. March 3, 1831 the subject for debate was whether a railroad from Boston to the interior of this state would be beneficial to the community. (Lyceum Rec., 1830-1843) Perhaps the eloquence of Reverend Smith who closed the debate for the negative side was the deciding factor. In any case the vote was in opposition to the railroad.

On July 4, 1831, "A Mr. Harrington exhibited a railroad with cars and locomotive engine at the tavern hall. He lectured on the origin, construction and uses of the steam engine." It must have been interesting.

On July 4, 1835, the railroad from Boston to Worcester opened with 1500 passengers carried on opening day. By December a new stage line was running from Brattleboro through Warwick to Worcester to connect with the railroad. Soon railroads were expanding in all directions, and on December 5, 1843 Cobb writes of a meeting held in Brattleboro to discuss extending a road from Fitchburg to Brattleboro. Now the chief topic of the day was the question, would the railroad go through Warwick?

During January, 1844 a survey was made for a proposed railroad from Athol following Tully brook and crossing the northeast corner of Warwick to Winchester. A second survey passing through Mayo's Corners and then north along the east side of the old Winchester road was made. Finally a third survey was made designed to bring the railroad west from Mayo's Corners to just north of the village and thence north to Winchester. But the rugged hills of Warwick encountered in all three surveys were too great an obstacle.

In March the legislature granted a charter for the extension of the Fitchburg railroad via Baldwinsville to Athol; from there "in such direction as the stockholders may prefer to Brattleboro. Either by way of Warwick and Winchester or down the Millers River to Grouts Corners (Millers Falls) and thence to Northfield and Vernon." (Cobb Diaries, March 9, 1844)

On April 17 we find an item: "Commenced work on the Vermont and Mass. railroad at Athol. One hundred Irish men on the ground and more expected." Many of the Irish families in the area can trace their ancestors to these immigrants brought here to provide cheap labor building the railroads.

October 27, 1848 six men were killed when a train carrying railroad iron went through a bridge four miles east of Athol. Nevertheless the first passenger train arrived in Athol December 29, and a year and a half later service was provided to South Orange. Again on December 27, 1848, Northfield had been reached and on February 13 the first train reached Brattleboro where a joyous celebration was held.

Thus lady fortune frowned on Warwick and bestowed her favors on its neighbors, Orange and Northfield. Denial of this

means of transportation was held an added blow and the decrease in the town's population was accelerated. The railroad soon brought to an end the stagecoach lines that had run through Warwick from Brattleboro to Worcester. As towns located on this now all-important mode of transportation began to flourish, Warwick soon found it could not compete with them. Its industries began to leave and its prosperous days were a thing of the past.

In 1845 Cobb had listed the industries then operating. Three shops manufactured chairs, those of Isaac Baker, Russell Brown and William Kilburne. Two years earlier a large chair shop owned by Atwood and Childs in the north end of the town at the corner of the old Winchester and Robbins roads had been completely destroyed by fire. Cobb writes that 1500 chairs besides stock and machinery were consumed, which shows the size of the industry. Alexander Blake made pails, Melzar Williams wove and dyed cloth. Reuben Fisher manufactured glue. Asa Wheeler made axes and tools. There were four blacksmith shops and one wheelwright shop. Four tanneries owned by William Russell, Calvin Delvee, Charles Stevens and Nathaniel E. Stevens cured the hides of animals. Two grist mills, one owned by Josiah Conant and the other by Amory and Jonathan Gale, ground the town's grain. Nine sawmills continued to consume the forests and disgorge lumber, shingles, clapboards, chair and pail stock. Three cabinet shops turned out a variety of articles. Five men were listed as making shoes in home workshops. There were numerous skilled carpenters and journeymen.

The town now boasted three churches, three stores, a tailor and two milliners and dressmakers. Doctor Amos Taylor was the sole resident physician, having served this vital need for about 30 years and to continue until 1865.

The next few years was to see a drastic change. Melzar Williams closed his clothing shop and dye house in 1847 after 25 years of operation. He then bought the Warwick Inn only to sell it a few months later at a loss.

Reuben Fisher had built his glue shop about 1831 on the Athol road just west of the present Newcomb house. He also

bought the Samuel Moore sawmill site and water privileges on the Northfield road in 1841. He built a new mill and installed a rotary machine for the manufacture of shingles. William Bass worked for Fisher and later acquired the mill. Fisher also started a shoe shop. Shortly after 1855 he closed down his glue shop and moved to Brattleboro, opening a glue shop there. The glue factory in Warwick was to continue operations on occasions until about 1875. The shingle mill of Calvin Delvee on Grace Brook north of Tannery Hill was destroyed by fire in 1848 and was not rebuilt. Apparently he gave up his tannery business about the same time. The Russell tannery on the Winchester road shut down about 1855, and by 1860 Nathaniel E. Stevens owned the remaining two. He soon shut down one and operated the other on Grace Brook until about 1875.

Alexander Blake, brother of Jonathan, had a sawmill with what is known as an up-and-down saw as early as 1825. It was located on Moss Brook, north of the junction of the Quarry and Flagg roads. This mill cut and sawed the wide boards that are in the backs of the pews in the Unitarian church. He manufactured pails and a variety of articles such as broom and hoe handles. He lost his son Warren in the war, and in 1870 Albee and Burt bought out the business.

The three chair shops in existence in 1845 soon gave up the struggle. Isaac Baker, located at the south end of what is now Wheeler's Pond, failed that year. Ephraim Lake took possession of the shop and began to manufacture brushes. James S. Wheeler and Damon Cheney took over the business before 1850. Wheeler was sole owner in 1870, then his son followed and continued the business until 1872. The business prospered and grew until the entire area acquired the name "Brush Valley." The chair shops of Brown and Kilburne were not operating in 1850.

A most illuminating note in Cobb's diary in 1852 reveals the change made by the failure to be located on the railroad. Five years before, the tavern had been sold to a company of five Warwick men for $1500. Now business had fallen to such a degree that they were willing to sell it to Lemuel Scott for $800.

This was one of the last items in William Cobb's diaries. The

old gentleman, now 83 years of age, had maintained an active interest in town affairs to the end. Plagued by family troubles, financial reverses and the infirmities of old age, he put down his now trembling pen and was laid to rest in 1853. We are grateful for his comments which add so much color to this picture of the first half century of Warwick life in its better years.

Interest in the two militia companies had declined with the decreasing population. In 1852 some 50 men petitioned the state for approval to form a single company to be known as the Warwick Light Infantry. A charter was granted for a period of five years allowing them such recompense as other militia companies received upon performing the duties required by state law.

The company, under the leadership of captains James Stockwell, Edward Mayo and Henry Mallard, was active from 1852 to 1857, but its charter was not reissued and all militia activity ceased. Henry Mallard, the last captain of the militia company was a selectman and prominent citizen. Lemuel Scott had acquired the tavern in 1853 where he and Mallard opened a store, Scott succeeding Cobb as postmaster. Both Mallard and Scott were in the prime of life, and when both fell victims of typhoid fever within three days of each other in 1858 the town was deeply shocked. The death of these popular men was mourned by everyone.

The support of the town's paupers had become an increasingly heavy burden. We note that in 1853 the town appropriated $1500 for this purpose while only $700 was raised for schools. The practice of placing these unfortunate people in the care of persons who bid to support them for the lowest amount had been followed for many years. Despite the belief that this was the cheapest solution to this problem it had not proved to be so. Gradually many became convinced that it would be better to place these unfortunates together in one place where they could receive better care and contribute partially to their own support.

After several earlier attempts had failed, the town voted to authorize the selectmen, Ibri Baker, Clark Stearns and Henry Mallard, to investigate possible farms to be used for this purpose.

Five farms were examined, the cost studied and the report stated that it was the belief of the selectmen that $300 a year could be saved in the cost of supporting the poor if either of two farms was purchased. Edward F. Mayo, James Stockwell, Sylvanus Atwood and Hervey Barber were added to the selectmen to investigate several other farms offered, of which they were authorized to purchase one.

As a result the Asa Bancroft farm (now the Anderson Farm) on the Winchester road just south of the state line was bought in 1856 for $2700. Tools, stock and furniture were bought. A man and wife were hired for $175 a year to manage the farm and care for the inmates under the supervision of the Overseer of the Poor.

Thus the almshouse or "Poor Farm" began an existence that was to last until 1906. On the whole it was successful, cutting the cost of supporting the poor nearly half. It provided a comfortable home for the aged, and the products of the farm materially aided in providing food.

The same year of 1856 the inhabitants of the center school district built a two room schoolhouse on the common land where the second church had once stood. During the war Colonel William McKim, the husband of Marie Antoinette Wheelock, presented the school with a bell. It had been captured in the South where it had been destined to conversion into war material for the Confederate Army. Sent North and hung in the schoolhouse cupola, it summoned the children to school and sent them joyously home until the building burned in 1929.

The year 1856 is known for the small-pox epidemic that claimed victims in many of the towns of this area. A prominent citizen, Deacon Sylvanus Ward, his wife and daughter died within a few days from this disease and were buried in what is still known as the small-pox cemetery on their home farm on Hastings Heights now owned by Glenn Matthews.

During the previous 15 years Warwick had seen many changes take place due to the coming of the railroad age. But with the establishment of the new boot factory better times seemed to be promised.

Few realized that the development of the steam engine was to make such a drastic change in the speed of transportation. The day of the sailing vessel and the horse drawn stagecoach was past. And with this change life as it had been lived for centuries was to change tremendously.

Agriculture was the chief occupation of the country towns. Local industries were mainly a seasonal affair when labor could be spared from the farm. The principal concerns of the people were the everyday problems. The town was divided by the perpetual disputes over local politics, public affairs, town meetings, temperance, anti-slavery agitation and the everlasting little lawsuits in which young lawyers pleaded eloquently at length before the village "squires." Life in the old town was cheerful. There was always on hand an ample supply of village wit and always "characters" to keep the town in an uproar. There was much rough and tumble entertainment and the village store, the blacksmith shop and the tavern provided a theatre where concerts, storytelling, discussions and gossip were always at hand.

Few foresaw the war clouds gathering on the horizon; a war that was to shake the nation to its foundations and from which a united nation was to emerge, destined to lead the world.

11

REBELLION YEARS, 1861-1865

We find no evidence that Warwick was especially concerned with the national issues that were gradually bringing a rift between the northern and southern states. Occasionally orators would visit the town and deliver speeches on the evils of slavery, but the people were too immersed in the problems of everyday affairs to become agitated about events far removed. No militia company had existed in the town for several years and apparently military spirit was at a low ebb.

Nevertheless this seemingly dormant spirit of patriotism became as intense as in the days of 1776. With the fall of Fort Sumter and the President's call for volunteers it would seem that the town awoke to the realization of the crisis facing the nation. Volunteer

regiments were being recruited in many sections of the state, and the recruiting officers found Warwick a fertile field for their endeavours.

Three days after the surrender of Fort Sumter on April 13, 1861 William Lawrence enlisted in the 5th Mass. Volunteer Militia. Promoted to Color Sergeant and assigned the honor of carrying his country's flag, he wrote home to Warwick these words: "One thing is certain; the colors of the regiment will be in their place as long as the bearer lives." On July 21 near a little stream in Virginia called Bull Run William Lawrence became the first boy from Warwick to die for the flag he carried. Another Warwick man, George Spencer, had laid aside his blacksmith tools and was engaged in the same battle, with the 11th Regiment.

Alexander Cooper, Artemus Ward and James H. Fuller took part in the disaster at Balls Bluff, Virginia, Oct. 20, 1861, as members of the 15th Mass. Regiment. Cooper had a most interesting life and an outstanding war record. An Englishman, he had come to Warwick to work in the tannery as a currier of hides. He married a local girl and they had several children. Now 36 years of age, he left his family to fight for his adopted country. He was discharged from the 15th Regiment for disability May 12, 1862 and returned home to reenlist with 12 other Warwick men in the 36th Regiment as orderly sergeant. He was dicharged October 12, 1864 as the result of wounds received in action. After the close of the war he volunteered with a group of veterans to assist in erecting the soldiers' monument to honor their dead comrades. While lifting the heavy stone the derrick broke, and the stone in falling killed Cooper. The incident is inscribed on the base of the monument.

Doubtless the heroic death of Lawrence, the actions of these men, and the disastrous rout of the Union forces spurred Warwick's men to rush to their country's aid. From a study of the military records we find that in the fall of 1861 many enlisted in several regiments, usually in groups to serve in the same company.

Frederick A. Williams enlisted in the 13th Mass. Regiment on July 16, 1861. He was killed at the second battle of Bull Run.

In September Francis L. Fuller, George E. Cook, Charles A. Jones, Francis L. Moore, Lyman D. Mason, George R. Severance and Lewis P. Atwood joined the 21st Mass. Regiment in Company A. The regiment served almost all of its time under General Burnside. First in the expedition to North Carolina, then in the Army of the Potomac, it was heavily engaged at Chantilly, Antietam and Fredericksburg. In 1863 it went with Burnside to Kentucky and Knoxville, Tennessee. In 1865 it was part of his 9th Corps from the Wilderness to Petersburg.

James Delvee, Henry H. Manning, Rufus L. Jennings, Monroe L. B. Partridge and Royal Stimpson joined Company G of the 24th Mass. Regiment October 1, 1861. This regiment served in North and South Carolina and Florida during 1862 and 1863. In May, 1864 it was ordered north to Virginia. Under General Butler it was heavily engaged in the battles of Drurys Bluff and Deep Bottom. It spent the winter in front of Petersburg and entered Richmond on April 8, 1865.

Corporal Henry Manning underwent almost unbearable adventures which are told in the regimental history, and later published as a book by the regimental chaplain entitled "The Captured Scout." Manning volunteered to enter the Confederate lines before Petersburg and scout the strength of General Beauregard's army. The Confederate forces were then weak, and Butler should have had no difficulty in capturing the city. But Manning was captured and Petersburg, then heavily reinforced, was not to fall until ten months later at the cost of thousands of lives. Manning escaped execution as a spy and eventually was sent to Andersonville prison. Several attempts at escape failing, in desperation he joined the Confederate army in the hope of being able to desert to the Union army. He surrendered at the first opportunity and was sent to a northern prison where he finally made contact with his old regiment. He rejoined his regiment and was promoted for bravery but, his health ruined because of his hardships, he was discharged. After the war he studied for the ministry until his health again failed and he died September 4, 1868.

Henry H. Cook and Dwight S. Jennings joined the 1st Mass.

Cavalry band as musicians and were discharged when the band was dispensed with after one year's service.

Nathaniel H. Pond and Alphonso B. Rayner enlisted in the 25th Regiment, Company I, and Jairus Hammond in the 26th Regiment. The 27th Regiment, Company B, included six men from Warwick: Miles S. Cushing, Joseph Drake, Leander S. Jillson, Harwood L. Proctor, Dwight H. Stone and George D. Townsend. All of these regiments were mustered in the fall of 1861 for three years of service. The 25th and 27th regiments served in the same area during most of the war, first in the Carolinas and later, in 1864, they were with Butler's army in the vicinity of Petersburg where they suffered heavy losses.

Benjamin F. Hastings, 30th Regiment, Company E, and Willard Packard in the 31st Regiment, Company B, enlisted in 1861 and both were to die of disease on board transports the following year.

The 32nd Regiment, also raised in 1861, included three men from Warwick: Alonzo Scott, Theodore C. Putnam and Henry Witherell. They were in the desperate assault on Mary's Heights at Fredericksburg, and fought stubbornly in the Devil's Den at Gettysburg. The regiment suffered severe casualties at Spotsylvania, Bethesda Church, Cold Harbor and Petersburg in 1864, but the survivors were present to accept the arms and colors of the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox April 9, 1865.

Four men and a 16-year-old boy, William Dugan, residing in the northern end of Warwick and thus, having more intimate contact with Winchester, preferred to enlist with their friends in the 5th New Hampshire Regiment. Joseph M. Adams, Amory S. Gould, Charles B. Lawrence (whose brother William had been killed at Bull Run) and Oren B. Curtis all joined Company F.

Under the leadership of an aggressive Colonel, Edward E. Cross, who was distinguished for his red beard and hair, the regiment soon won the name "The Fighting 5th." Always in the forefront in battle, it suffered heavy casualties at Fair Oaks, Glendale and Malvern Hill in May of 1862. Attached to the Army of the Potomac, it performed gallantly at Antietam and in the futile assault on Mary's Heights at Fredericksburg. It was

heavily engaged at Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Cold Harbor and Petersburg. One hundred and seventy five men of its original enrollment were killed.

On July 28, 1862 the town voted to give a bounty of $100 to the first 13 volunteers to enlist in the regiments then authorized by the state for three years' service. A month later a similar bounty was voted to be given those enlisting in the regiments raised for nine months' duty.

In midsummer of 1862 two regiments, the 34th and 36th, were recruited in the western counties of the state. Andrew J. Curtis, Albert L. Hunt, Joseph W. Sawyer, Royal Stimpson and Seth A. Woodward joined the 34th. The major part of their service was in the Shenandoah Valley under Generals Sigel, Hunter and Sheridan.

George S. Jones was the only Warwick man in the 35th regiment recruited in the eastern end of the state. This regiment was associated closely with the 36th regiment in its service.

The 36th Regiment had the largest contingent of Warwick men within its ranks, 13 in all. In Company G were Jesse F. Bridges, George B. Cobb, Alexander Cooper, John Farnsworth, Ebenezer Goodwin, Alfred E. Houghton, Lafayette Nelson, Amos A. Taylor, Sylvester T. Underwood and Joseph A. Williams; Co. D, Franklin Pierce; Co. H, Elliot D. Stone; Co. K, Joseph E. Putnam.

From October, 1862 to March, 1863, the regiment campaigned in Virginia but saw little serious fighting. It was then sent to join Grant's army engaged in the siege of Vicksburg, and attached to Sherman's corps. This corps' assignment was to protect Grant's rear and prevent the Confederate army under General Johnston from relieving General Pemberton, besieged in Vicksburg. After the fall of Vicksburg Sherman defeated Johnston at Jackson, Mississippi, July 16, 1863.

The regiment then marched north to Kentucky. There were few casualties from battle but the regiment suffered severely from long marches in extremely hot wet weather. When they reached their camp at Crab Orchard, Kentucky, there were only 68 men fit for duty out of 1040 mustered a year previously.

The regiment then joined the Army of the Ohio under General Burnside and with him were besieged in Knoxville, Tennessee, from November 17 to December 4, 1863. Rescued by General Sherman, they remained in Tennessee until ordered east to join the Army of the Potomac in March, 1864.

With Grant they crossed the Rapidan River on May 4 as part of the 9th corps under General Burnside. Severe casualties were suffered in the battles of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Bethesda Church, Cold Harbor and the siege of Petersburg.

Following the surrender the regiment took part in the grand review parade in Washington and was mustered out on June 8, 1865.

On October 18, 1862 the 53rd Regiment was mustered for a period of nine months' service. Ten men and boys from Warwick all joined Company H: Sergeant Henry H. Jillson, Corporal William H. Mason, Warren H. Blake, John B. Caldwell, James M. Chapin, Edward N. Coller, Peter Dyer, Charles W. Higgins, Henry W. Kidder and Jacob S. Rayner. Three of these boys were only 18 years old and three more were 19.

The regiment was sent to the lower Mississippi River valley and was engaged in only one battle, the assault on Port Hudson. Rayner died as the result of a wound in this fight and the diseases prevalent in the area caused the death of Blake, Caldwell, Chapin and Coller. The remainder returned home sick at heart.

We have tried to record briefly the service rendered by men and boys who joined the army in groups in answer to their country's call. This has been done in the hope that some knowledge of the sacrifices they made will help us to remember them with gratitude and honor. Our limited pages prevent us from a description of the service rendered by those who enlisted singly in other units. We give only the names and the organizations to which they belonged, knowing a complete record can be obtained from published official records: George Adams, 11th Regt., Henry S. Butler, 3rd N. H. Regt., R. Harding Barber, 53rd Regt., Edward S. Davis, 39th Regt., Joseph W. Ellis, 3rd N. Y. Cavalry, George N. Jennings, 3rd Heavy Art., Benjamin Hastings, 30th Regt., Sumner Lincoln, 6th Vermont Regt., George

W. Mason, 40th N. Y. Regt., Charles E. Randall, 6th N. H. Regt., Simond P. Shepardson, Jr., 61st Regt., Levi E. Switzer, 6th Mass. Battery and William Weeks, 3rd. N. H. Regt.

The town clerk's register of soldiers adds the names of 12 more men who received a bounty of $450 each to act as substitutes for men who were drafted. The men drafted paid $300 and the town paid the remainder in order to fill its quota. None of the men secured in this way were residents of Warwick and their names are not included in the foregoing lists.

After a careful search of all available official records we find that Warwick can justly claim to have furnished 99 men, including substitutes, as their contribution to the war.

Of the 79 men claimed by Warwick as actual residents, 27 men gave their lives in defense of their country. Their names are inscribed on the tall granite monument erected by the town in the center of the cemetery in 1866. We give the names as they are recorded:

William H. Lawrence
Francis L. Moore
Levi E. Switzer
Frederick Williams
Willard Packard
LaFayette Nelson
Edward N. Coller
Seth Woodward
Henry H. Manning
James D. Delvee
Charles Jones
Jas. Henry Fuller
Benjamin Hastings
Franklin Pierce
John B. Caldwell
Warren H. Blake
Joseph W. Sawyer
Alexander Cooper
Leander S. Jillson
M. Stanley Cushing
Monroe L. B. Partridge
Joseph Drake
Edward S. Davis
James M. Chapin
Jacob S. Rayner, Jr.
S. P. Shepardson, Jr.
Joseph W. Ellis

Surely the sacrifice made by these men places the town of Warwick high on the honor roll of towns and cities who paid a heavy price to preserve the Union.

The war dragged on and the casualty lists began to arrive back home with the names of the dead and wounded; next let-

ters, describing the hardships endured and the inept military leadership that discouraged the common soldier. The war that began with fiery patriotic speeches, uniforms and bands and the cry "On to Richmond" had lost its glamor. Soon it became a deadly serious business and many, sick at heart, wanted to see any end to the sad affair. Peace at any price!

But the war must go on and the ranks must be filled, so, first bounties were offered to secure enlistments, and then when that failed in some states a draft was ordered.

Despite the fact that the town had seen its population steadily decreasing for the past 30 years due to the loss of industries and emigration to the west, it supported the prosecution of the war with true patriotic feeling. The assessors' valuation records show a decrease in population from 932 in 1860 to 909 in 1865. But what is truly astonishing is the decrease in the valuation of property from $342, 556 in 1860 to $220, 657 in 1865. Nevertheless they repeatedly voted to give bounties approved by the state to secure volunteers for the army. As a result of the war the town was to fall heavily in debt, a debt that was not to be paid entirely for about 20 years.

On April 1, 1864 the town "voted to raise $1500 for bounties for soldiers who have or shall volunteer in the town's quota, also to authorize the Selectmen to cause the quota of the town to be filled with volunteers in advance of any draft."

Town clerk Edward F. Mayo gave the above figures to be found in Adjutant General Schouler's *History of Massachusetts in the Civil War,* Vol. II, and adds that Warwick furnished 99 men for the army which was nine men over and above all demands made by the state.

It might be of interest to add that Warwick had a native-born son who served in the Confederate army. John Bowman, 3rd was born on Flower Hill in 1822 in the house now owned by Carl Nordstedt. His father, mother and two other children died within a period of two weeks of cholera in 1831. From *The Biographical History of Massachusetts,* Volume VII, by Eliot . . . we learn that he was educated in the high schools of Gardner and Worcester and then studied law. However his tastes led him

to scientific experiments and he became a very successful inventor. Among his inventions are the Doughlass pump, a locomotive spark arrester and a knitting machine.

He resided for many years in the south at Macon, Milledgeville and Tallahassee where he invested extensively in real estate. We are told he was drafted into the Confederate army, but the particulars are not stated. He eventually returned north and died in Boston in 1882.

During the war Warwick was to observe the centennial of its birth as a town. With all the interest of the people centered upon the war and its absent soldiers it was not an ideal time to celebrate the occasion as it deserved. Its observance therefore was restricted to exercises held at the Unitarian Church on the evening of February 17, 1863, centennial of the date the incorporation of the town was granted. Deacon Hervey Barber gave a lecture on the early history of the town to a large attentive audience, and the anniversary passed without further comment.

Deacon Barber was a man who held many important positions of trust and influence in the town. He served as selectman, town treasurer, school committee member and Justice of the Peace. He also held the office of deacon in the Unitarian Church for 30 years and for 25 years was superintendent of the Sunday School. When the town voted to publish the history of the town by Hon. Jonathan Blake 18 years after the author's death, Deacon Barber completed it to 1872.

We have told how the first section of the present cemetery was given to the town in 1782 by Moses Leonard. By 1818 it had become obvious that an additional area was needed. Caleb Mayo, William Cobb and Ebenezer Pierce, selectmen, bought an acre and a half of land on the south end from Bunyan Penniman.

Now in 1864 Mrs. Experience Fisk, the widow of Elijah Fisk, gave the land adjoining on the south, which had been her home, to the town to further enlarge the cemetery. The town passed a resolution thanking Mrs. Fisk and gave the name Fisk Cemetery to the addition in her honor. Roads and lots were laid out, the area landscaped and trees planted. Another section of land adjoining this on the west side was similarly given to the town by Mrs. Etta M. T. Bass in 1943 in memory of her father, Wil-

liam Kendall Taylor. As a result, today Warwick has an extremely attractive and beautiful resting-place for its dead.

One afternoon in April the church bell began to ring madly. Soon the news spread in all directions, "Richmond has fallen!" At long last, four heart-breaking years had ended. Now they could gather up the broken pieces and try to heal the nation's wounds. But the scars would last for a century. Nevertheless they all faced toward the future with hope.

12

RESTLESS YEARS, 1865-1875

THE CLOSE OF THE WAR resulted in an increase of emigration to the west as new lands were opened up by the government for settlement. Soldiers returning home had heard of the golden opportunities that awaited the venturesome; free rich land where a man did not have to grub around the eternal rocks of New England. Many inducements were offered to those with the pioneering spirit of their ancestors. Warwick's industries were dying, one by one, and the future looked bleak and hopeless to many with idle hands searching vainly for work.

Preserved at the home of Edwin Gillespie on the Richmond road is an old door that once hung on the small shoe shop, a home industry common in those days. Pasted on the door is a large poster with the following advertisement:

NOTICE!
Those Who Wish to go West
Now is the time to join a colony!

The next meeting of the Franklin County Emigrant Association will be held at the hotel April 12, 1870.

All Soldiers, Sailors and Citizens desirous of joining a column composed of men that are bound to go west and take up 160 acres of government land and become actual settlers under the Homestead Law and obtaining information describing the location and character of Lands are invited to attend.

Franklin County Association, Greenfield, Mass.

Soon the red flag of the auctioneer was more and more to be seen, and his hammer rose and fell as abandoned farms and excess household goods were sold to those who remained behind. Farms, once prosperous, now were left vacant and the open fields grew up to brush as Mother Nature once more claimed them.

To be sure there were some who believed that Warwick still had a promising future. One was Nahum Jones of Boston. In 1855 he had begun the manufacture of boots in the store originally built by Lemuel Wheelock. As the business grew he built an addition on the north end, later raising the roof and adding another floor. Most of the shoes made in rural shoe shops were rather crude in workmanship and were designed to be worn by southern slaves during the winter seasons. Nahum Jones had an extensive business with southern customers and lost heavily when the war made it impossible to collect his accounts. In 1870 he moved to Warwick and bought the Preserved Smith home. Eventually he was to employ 40 men and manufacture 20,000 pairs of kip leather boots each year.

George N. Wheeler now owned and operated the shop in the southern end of the town and was manufacturing brush woods. Employing from six to eight men, they produced annually over 2500 gross of brush woods. The mill depended upon waterpower and its operation was controlled according to whether it was a wet or a dry year.

Fourteen sawmills were engaged in producing over 4,000,000 feet of lumber annually, consisting of pine, hemlock, chestnut and hardwood. A steady flow of teams carted this lumber to the railroad for shipment to the cities of New England and New York. Two of these mills were now operated by steam and nine had circular saws of the latest design. In addition there were nine smaller mills that cut pail staves, chair stock, shingles, lath, clapboards and broom handles. It was estimated that the stave mills produced material for over 1,500,000 wooden pails yearly. (Blake History)

The principal owners of sawmills manufacturing these articles are listed on a map of Warwick made by F. W. Beers & Co. in 1871. Burt and Albee now owned the former Alexander Blake mill on Moss Brook; Chandler Bass and J. S. Emery each had a

mill at the foot of Barber Hill; William H. Bass had a mill at what was known as Bass Reservoir on the Northfield road; Woodcock and Sawyer had a stave and sawmill on Black Brook; Henry H. Jillson operated both a sawmill and a grist mill on Mirey brook near the state line, and Appleton Gale's sawmill and grist mill were active on Gale Road.

Mills confined to the manufacture of lumber included those of Alonzo Barrus in Brush Valley, Calvin W. Delva on the Wendell Road, Martin Harris at Harris Pond in the southwest corner of Warwick, C. H. Jennings on the Winchester road, Melzar Williams on the Northfield road, A. C. White at the south end of what is now Sheomet Pond, George Moore south of Moores Pond, and Johnson Bros. & Co. had the old N. G. Stevens mill on the pond by that name.

The tannery owned by Nathan E. Stevens employed eight men in the manufacture of upper leather. Three hundred cords of hemlock bark cut in the town, worth from eight to ten dollars a cord, was used by the tannery. Over 50 tons of leather was produced annually, valued at over $20,000.

At the close of the war Captain Arlon S. Atherton bought the village store, and he was to play a prominent role in town affairs during the following ten years. The Captain had been a well-known personage in Warwick from early childhood, his mother being Mary Ann Stearns, daughter of Simeon, Jr. He and his father had been prominent landowners in the northeast corner of the town, but his residence was located across the state line in Richmond. He had enlisted in the 3rd New Hampshire Regiment and had an outstanding career in the army, rising to the rank of captain. The family had long been members of the Congregational Church, and on the completion of his army career he married a Warwick girl, Susan Caldwell, the stepdaughter of Barnard Fisher, the village blacksmith. He then made his home in this town. He served as town clerk and treasurer from 1868 to 1873 and represented the district comprising Warwick, Orange and New Salem in the state legislature in 1873. The following year he moved to Wakefield, Massachusetts, but continued to maintain an active interest in the town until his death in 1922.

Abner Albee had come to Warwick in 1855 to serve as foreman

in the boot shop owned by Nahum Jones. Appointed postmaster in 1861, he and his brother Asa opened a store. They bought Atherton's store in 1874 and conducted the post office there until it was destroyed by fire in 1882. The Albee family, including Abner's sons Alvin, Arthur and Myron, played a prominent role in village life until after 1885.

Another man who was to be prominent in town affairs from 1875 to 1905 was George N. Richards. He bought the saw and stave mill owned by Woodcock and Sawyer on Black Brook, where the Ayres grist mill had stood in colonial days. He repaired the dam and created the pond that still bears his name, and also operated a blacksmith shop and cider mill.

Warwick was visited frequently by storms and suffered severely from wind, hail and rain. The floods that often followed caused heavy damage to industries. Perhaps the most severe hailstorm occurred on July 29, 1866. Hervey Barber describes the storm as suddenly appearing on a hot sultry day from the west and passing over Flower Hill and then taking a southwesterly course similar to the tornado of 1821. Hailstones averaging the size of walnuts covered the ground in places to a depth of eight inches.

On October 4, 1869 a deluge of rain poured down on the town for over six hours. Small brooks became raging torrents and roads and bridges were washed out. The Greenfield *Courier* relates, "A part of Jillson's dam (on Mirey Brook) was carried away and David Shepardson's mill and dam (on Orcutt Brook) was entirely swept away, and also half of Wheeler's Reservoir dam."

A few days later a second storm followed in the north end of the town. The pond behind the dam on Kidder's reservoir, already filled, could hold no more and the dam gave way. Not a vestige of his stave and sawmill or the dam remained. The raging torrent of water swept all before it. Trees, bridges and roads fell victims to its mighty force. Huge boulders, many tons in weight, were rolled over and over until the force abated. Several other dams were carried away, and the valley through which Mirey Brook ran was a scene of desolation.

The second rainstorm began on a Sunday morning and the story that follows is a tradition of Warwick. It seems that Deacon Aaron Kidder was a very devout man and a faithful attendant at the Baptist Church. As he was preparing to go to church his hired man rushed into the house and told him he had better lower the flash boards on the top of his dam. "Today is Sunday," replied the Deacon. "I'm going to church, the Lord will take care of the dam."

The Deacon went to church and the dam went down the valley. When the hired man told the story, the Deacon's popularity was lower than his mill pond.

In 1867 the town laid out a road north of Nahum Jone's boot shop. Three ladies, Mrs. M. A. McKim, Mrs. E. C. Sibley and Miss Sarah Ball, then conceived the idea of making the area north of this road into a town park. They began to circulate a subscription paper for the purpose of buying the land. The western side had been the site of a blacksmith shop for many years and was then owned by Captain Atherton, proprietor of the store across the road from it. Nahum Jones owned the section north of his bootshop. Mr. Jones offered to give his section to the town if it would vote to erect and maintain a suitable fence around the park. The offer was accepted by the town in 1870.

Mr. Hervey Barber, Calvin W. Delva and Edward F. Mayo then secured subscriptions to landscape the park, set out trees and erect the fence. The granite posts were supplied by the quarry south of Quarry Road in the southwest corner of town.

Later, in 1880, a bandstand was erected in the park and here the Cornet Band, under the leadership of Samuel Hastings, James E. Fuller and Edward F. Mayo, provided many concerts for the benefit of festive occasions. The band, usually composed of about 12 men, was active as late as the early 90's. It was in great demand in the surrounding communities and was a decided asset to the town.

The year 1870 saw the birth of the Warwick Free Public Library. The subsequent history of this all-important institution, as well as the story of the private libraries it superceded will be discussed later in a separate chapter.

This same year an attempt was made "to prohibit the sale of ale, porter, strong beer and lager." The attempt failed, but the following year it was successful. From that time until well into the 20th century the town was to be consistently dry, at least officially.

Cobb mentioned in his diaries as early as 1830 the formation of a temperance society. Its subsequent history is unknown. The movement probably continued although it may have become dormant at times. We have a record of the Union Temperance Society organized in 1878 and active for several years. In the 1890's Clara Barton spent some time in the town giving temperance lectures and formed a society under her name.

William A. Howard came to Warwick in the 70's and bought the former Scott home between the Baptist Church and the tavern for a summer home. A native of Warwick he was the son of William Howard, a founder of the Congregational Church in 1829. He had traveled extensively and gathered a large collection of minerals and curiosities from all over the world. This collection, valued at that time at $500, he presented to the Warwick Library where it is still kept in a large glass case. On his death he bequeathed his house and $1,000 to the town with the provision that the income was to be divided between the churches.

The town rented one room of the house to the library and moved the town office into another room. The remainder of the house was converted into a tenement and rented to Doctor Samuel P. French who served the town as physician, superintendent of schools and librarian until 1880. When the new town hall was built, the library and town office moved into this building. The Howard house was destroyed by fire in 1900, and the insurance of $1000 received by the town created the "Howard Poor Fund" to continue the work of this benefactor.

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THE REIGN OF SAM HASTINGS, 1875-1915

SHORTLY AFTER the close of the Civil War a name began to appear in lists of town officers. We first find it in the minor office of sexton for the cemetery in 1875. Thus began in a modest way the political career of Samuel Hastings. As the years went by he accumulated one town office after another until he held almost complete control of town affairs. Samuel was the son of Daniel Hastings and was born in 1837. He was described as "delicate" in his youth and consequently did not serve in the war. A talented musician, he helped to organize the Warwick Cornet Band and served as its leader during most of its existence.

The duties of sexton included the general care of the cemetery, arranging for burials and the care of the town hearse, all under the supervision of the cemetery commissioners who were first chosen in 1872. This board of commissioners was replaced by a superintendent of the cemetery in 1879, Hastings being elected to this office together with that of sexton for the remainder of his life. Now he was his own "boss" and in complete charge. He conducted a livery stable and a stage, which made daily trips to and from Orange transporting mail and passengers. Thus he provided the horses for the town hearse and drove it whenever its services were required.

In 1876 he succeeded Edward F. Mayo as town clerk and with the exception of one year he held this office until 1915. In 1879 he added the offices of selectman, assessor and overseer of the poor but relinquished these to become treasurer from 1889 to 1895. In this year, according to tradition, his subjects revolted and he was defeated both as clerk and treasurer. But the following year he was back in the saddle again both as selectman and clerk. In 1902 he again assumed the office of treasurer and, with the exception of three years when he relinquished the office

of selectman, he continued to hold all these important offices until his death February 16, 1915. In addition he held the appointive office as meat inspector.

He secured the appointment as postmaster in 1889, and with Myron Sampson as a partner, he bought out the store owned by Archie Jennings as part of the Warwick Hotel. The boot shop of Nahum Jones had ceased to operate in 1885, and Hastings and Sampson moved the store and post office into the south end of the empty shop. Two years later Hastings resigned as postmaster in favor of Sampson and dissolved the partnership. He then returned to driving the stage to Orange.

He was equally as important in the affairs of the Unitarian Church and played a prominent role in organizing the Warwick Old Residents' Reunion Association in 1895, serving as its president for ten years.

Since 1857, when the towns of Orange, New Salem and Warwick were joined into a district for the purpose of electing a representative to the legislature, it had been the practice for each town to elect one in rotation. Erving was added to the district in 1877 and Shutesbury in 1887. With the increase in population of Orange, Warwick had this privilege less frequently. When it became Warwick's turn in 1885 and 1895, who was sent? Samuel Hastings.

Gradually as industries closed down and many substantial citizens moved away to more promising lands Mr. Hastings, who remained behind, became more and more a power in the town. With a character beyond reproach, he was generally respected and well liked. However there were some who resented his power and claimed he was vain and dictatorial in his control of town affairs. This feeling, held by a minority, was of course inevitable, as every politician should expect, whether justified or not.

Many anecdotes are told about the reign of Sam Hastings. One concerns an old lady who held a decided dislike for Sam. Realizing that she was approaching the end of her days and knowing that he would drive the town hearse that would carry her to her grave, she informed her relatives that if Sam showed

up on the hearse at her funeral she would rise up from her casket and walk to the cemetery. Sam was not to have the pleasure of taking her there. The story continues, stating that her relatives promised some one else would perform the task, but when the time came the promise was forgotten. When Sam drove into the yard the old lady, true to her word, rose up and walked.

During the 1870's James Stockwell had served as selectman six years, and it was he whom Samuel Hastings defeated in 1879. Stockwell returned to the board two years later and served periodically for ten more years. He in turn defeated Hastings for the office of treasurer in 1895. With the death of Stockwell in 1901 Hastings no longer had any serious opposition.

Two other leading citizens during this period were Charles A. Williams and George M. Wheeler. Charles Williams and his brother Joseph were the sons of Melzar Williams. Each owned one or more sawmills and had large real estate holdings. Charles, however, was more prominent in town affairs, serving in many capacities.

George Wheeler continued the manufacture of brush wood started by his father, James, in Brush Valley. In 1872 he changed over to the manufacture of wooden boxes. Water power not always being sufficient, he built a boiler house and installed a steam engine in the early 90's. The business continued until a disastrous fire destroyed the building in 1920.

During the two years preceding the Civil War the townspeople had held a cattle show on the Common and a fair in the vestry of the Unitarian Church. The exhibitors included many people from neighboring towns who brought their best in domestic animals, agricultural produce and specimens of their manufactured products. Flowers, paintings and curiosities were exhibited also. The fair was considered very successful, but the war put an end to what was intended to be an annual affair.

It was not until 1879 that the time seemed propitious to revive the Annual Fair and Cattle Show. Elaborate plans were made and committees chosen to have charge of the many parts of the program. We have the official program as arranged in 1881. The officers were as follows: George M. Richards, President,

Samuel Hastings, Secretary, and James L. Stockwell, Treasurer. The executive committee was composed of E. F. Mayo, W. H. Bass, C. W. Delva, W. H. Gale and L. P. Cheney. There were many subcommittees, each in charge of the following: grounds, hall, cattle, horses, sheep, swine, poultry, fruit, grain, vegetables, flowers, fancy articles, fine arts, manufactured arts, bread, butter, cheese, penmanship in the schools and amusements.

Captain David Ball, mounted on his black horse, was Marshal of the Day and led the parade that formed on the Common. There were pulling contests for both draught oxen and horses and an exhibition of carriage-horses. At noon a dinner was provided at the Warwick House. Various amusements were provided on the Common in the afternoon. Dancing in the evening at the Warwick House brought an end to a day full of excitement for all.

The last mention we find of an affair of this magnitude was in 1883. Possibly competition from larger towns was too much for Warwick and caused it to be abandoned.

The official program for the Fair carried advertisements inserted by the two Warwick stores. F. E. Stimpson, whose store was then in the Warwick House, advertised his line of Dry Goods and Groceries, "Produce taken in Exchange for Goods at the Highest Market Prices." This was a common country practice universally followed.

Albee Brothers store was located where the present store now stands. They also sold dry goods and groceries but in addition were agents for "Elmer's Double Acting Churn and the Victor Sewing Machine — We want 1000 dozen Palm leaf Hats in exchange for goods."

This latter item refers to a home industry engaged in by women and girls from as early as 1850, to continue for about half a century. Palm leaf would be supplied by the stores, and weaving of hats gradually replaced the weaving of homespun cloth by the gentler sex of an earlier generation.

Mrs. Mary Blake Clapp, sister of Jonathan Blake, Esq., and a resident of Dorchester, had always maintained a deep interest in her native town. Twice she had given sums of $500 to the

town, the interest of which was to be used in the care of the cemetery. On two occasions she had given sums of $1000 to the Unitarian Church, also a fund of $500 for the support of the library.

In 1884, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Mrs. Clapp's birth, her daughters Martha Clapp, Catherine C. Humphreys, Rebecca C. Trask and Mary C. Weis, in memory of their mother gave to the town the Howard clock still in the steeple of the Unitarian Church. The gift was gratefully accepted and since that year it has been maintained by the town. With the striking of the bell now automatic the town office of "Bell Ringer" was discontinued, and the selectmen have appointed a Caretaker of the Town Clock annually.

An item found in the Greenfield *Courier,* February 2, 1880, discloses that "James M. Conant has put a telephone from Albee Bros. store to F. E. Stimpson's Hotel to show the people how it works and he would be glad to run a line to Orange." Thus was introduced a new means of communication that was to change radically the way of life in the world in general and Warwick in particular. Ten years were to pass before the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company was to be issued a permit to place poles from Orange town line to Warwick; and many more years would pass before service would be extended beyond the village, the intervening years having been occupied establishing service in more heavily populated areas.

The people of Warwick had no inclination to wait patiently for this new convenience to reach the outlying districts and so a private local organization of stockholders was formed about 1910 to install battery-operated telephones in the town. Soon it was possible merely by turning a crank on the side of a box hung on the wall to be able to talk to someone on the opposite end of the town, knowing that probably other subscribers were also "listening in" to the conversation.

Warwick had never been able to boast of a town hall. Several attempts had been made in various years to have the town vote to build one, but all had failed. Town meetings were held in the hall attached to the hotel, and town records, first scattered among

the homes of town officials, were eventually housed in an office in the Howard house. In 1893 the state exerted pressure on the town to provide a fireproof vault to protect these records and this led to reopening the issue.

At the annual meeting in March, 1893 the town voted to build a town hall at a cost not to exceed $5000. Charles A. Williams, Appleton Gale and Wales N. Ward were chosen as a committee to attend to the matter. James E. Fuller, a native son and a partner in the architectual firm of Fuller and Delano of Worcester, offered his services as architect. Nahum Jones offered the site of his now empty boot shop to the town at a very low price. This offer was accepted and the old shop was torn down. Frank and Edward Witherell of Warwick were the contractors, and the combined efforts of these men produced the building that we have enjoyed to this day.

On January 10, 1895 the building was fittingly dedicated with Samuel Hastings, Esq., acting as master of ceremonies. The interest shown by many former residents on this occasion created a movement to hold a town picnic in the summer to bring them back to the old home town on a day especially arranged for their welcome. Thus Old Home Day, as it soon came to be known, was born. The first picnic was so successful that the Warwick Old Residents' Reunion Association was formed, with Appleton Gale as president, Samuel Hastings, vice-president, E. A. Williams, secretary, Charles A. Williams, W. E. Blackmer and A. Gale, executive committee.

The association has been of immense value in maintaining an interest in the town among its former residents, and each year the program arranged for both young and old has continued . . . Old Home Day has not changed materially in its nearly 60 years of existence: a competitive sport program for the children, followed by a ball game between a local team and one from a neighboring town, and a dance in the town hall in the evening; for the older people, a literary and musical program in the church with reminiscences of more youthful days exchanged by old friends. Often a band concert would be given, and always a supper would be served at the town hall by the Association.

In 1881 fire destroyed the home of Quartus M. Morgan in the upper village, and the newspaper correspondent of the day stated it was believed to be the first major fire to have occurred in the village. Be that as it may, it was the first of many. Fires became a common occurrence, and numerous abandoned homes in the outlying districts were mysteriously destroyed. Albee Brothers store was burned in 1882, Deacon George Moore's mill in 1888 and in 1891 the two houses north of the Unitarian Church were totally destroyed. The old abandoned Mayo or Fay tavern went up in flames, also a house behind it, in 1896, and the Howard house south of the Baptist Church burned in 1901. Thus with the new town hall replacing the old boot shop many changes were made in the appearance of the village.

The Gay Nineties, as this period is often called, became an era of many changes in the old town. The population had dropped to 565 in 1890, but now the tide was to turn for a decade. An orgy of timber cutting began as many of the old families stripped the land and then sold out. Many families moved into town to work in the sawmills, and by 1895 the population had grown to 619. When the timber was exhausted they moved on.

But one group came to stay. This group was led by Ludwig Nordstedt who bought the farm owned by Joseph Williams on Flower Hill in 1892. He was the first of some 20 Swedish families, most of whom followed him from Quincy, Massachusetts. Many were former stonemasons who, finding work declining in their trade, turned to farming. There were the Ericsons, the Bergstens, the Bergquists, the Hansons, the Nylanders, the Lundgrens and the Swansons, all of whom had arrived by the end of the century. The invasion went on, Carl Stange arriving in Brush Valley in 1902, and by 1906 we find that August Anderson had bought the town poor farm. Nils Ohlson, Charles Soderman, John Lawson, Victor and Ludwig Johnson, and Oscar Carlson had joined them before 1910.

Perhaps that same local newspaper correspondent who had boasted in 1876 that "Warwick has no naturalized citizens" would not have approved of the Swedish invasion, for many of the old families did not. However for many years they were

quite sufficient unto themselves and gradually they were accepted and became a power in the community.

Ludwig Nordstedt served on the Board of Selectmen from 1910 to 1913. Each Saturday night the selectmen met at the town hall, supposedly to transact town business. He soon found that Sam Hastings had already taken care of everything quite satisfactorily and, feeling that the exchange of town gossip in a smoke-filled room did not compensate him for his wasted evening, he resigned after four years.

The war with Spain appears to have been completely ignored by Warwick. Never in any way do we find any reference to it. In fact, from the year 1898 we find little worth recording for the next 15 years. Warwick had indeed become a sleepy little town with no ambition or hopes for the future.

Today we who have become accustomed to traveling over highways at the terrific speeds of modern day traffic are inclined to think of the horse and buggy days of our forebears as slow and safe. But when we glance through the volumes of newspaper clippings so carefully collected and preserved we find that such was not the fact. The runaway horse, as it was called, was a common occurrence. And a terrifying sight it was to see a horse with the bit clamped in his teeth as he tore down the road deaf to all the commands of his driver.

All too often it would end in tragedy but it was part of life in the country. Thus the Memorial Day exercises at the cemetery were marred when, in 1904, his horse took fright and threw Harwood Proctor, an old Civil War veteran, from his carriage. Severely injured, he died a few weeks later.

Miss Mary Tyler took the minister's wife, Mrs. E. H. Brenan, for a ride over the Rum Brook Road on an August day in 1902. The road ascends and descends a series of small but steep hills. In some manner the horse became frightened and ran. Miss Tyler was first thrown from the buggy and then Mrs. Brenan. Miss Tyler was seriously injured, but Mrs. Brenan fell on a rock ledge and was almost instantly killed.

A similar accident caused the death of Mrs. Darrah, the bride of a Worcester artist who had a summer home at the Sandin

place at the end of Sandin Road. Driving her horse alone she lost control of it descending a steep hill on the Royalston Road. Her body and also that of the horse were found at the foot of the hill.

Tragedies such as these to prominent people were not quickly forgotten, and even today when mention is made some will nod their heads and say, "I remember being told about it years ago."

In 1900 the town received a gift that has proved a blessing to many of the townspeople during the past 60 years in a manner little dreamed of by its donor, Mrs. Edward C. Thayer, the daughter of Captain David Ball. She gave the ornamental iron watering trough that is placed near the public library and is designed for the use of both human beings and animals. It is a rare occasion today for a horse to be seen quenching its thirst as thousands have done in the past. A spring, given by Charles Williams, provides a constant flow of water from Mount Grace. The base of the fountain is so arranged that the upper part forms a trough for the benefit of dogs and other small animals. On this base rests a column which supports the larger bowl for horses. From the center of the bowl rises an ornamental post with four figures, from the mouths of which water pours into the bowl.

Its great value to the town stems from the fact that during a long, dry season many of the wells supplying water for the residents become useless. Then all turn to the old fountain, and often several cars can be seen awaiting their turn to fill containers with water for home consumption.

Earlier Captain Ball had given a watering trough to the town which still stands on the side of the Winchester Road opposite the A. J. Morris home. The Captain was a well-known citizen of Warwick and a descendant of Samuel Ball, an early settler. Both he and his father, also David, were cabinet makers and farmers. Some years before the Civil War the son had moved to Vermont. When war came he enlisted in the 6th Vermont Regiment. On July 3, 1863 the regiment was part of Stannard's brigade and was stationed on Cemetery Ridge in the town of Gettysburg. Here they awaited the famous charge of 15,000

Confederates under General Pickett. David Ball, now a captain, led his company, and the firm stand of these Vermont men is credited with playing a prominent role in repulsing the charge often claimed to be the turning point of the war.

After the war Ball returned to Warwick, but he was never claimed by the town as having served from here. Nevertheless he was recognized as its leading veteran and frequently acted as marshall in the annual Memorial Day parade. For years at the exercises in the cemetery the firing squad has stood near his grave to fire their "Salute to the Dead."

And so the years rolled slowly by and life must have been rather boring to the young, and even the old had tired of a too peaceful existence. At least we can find no other reason to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the town's incorporation a year early. The anniversary date would fall on February 17, 1913, and it was felt that at that time of year justice could not be done to the occasion. Better early than late, so plans were made to hold it in the summer of 1912.

The general committee chosen consisted of Charles A. Williams, Samuel Hastings, Leslie W. Green, Edward A. Lyman and Ludwig Nordstedt. August 14 and 15 were set aside for the celebration. The program as arranged was to begin with an opening address by Governor Foss with music, both vocal and instrumental. This was followed by a historical pageant arranged and directed by Miss Annie B. C. Fisher, (later Mrs. Louis B. Pulcifer) a native of Warwick and for the previous 20 years a teacher in the Concord High School. She was ably assisted by Miss Elsie Williams, and the pageant depicting important episodes in the history of the town was lauded by all attending as a masterpiece.

In the evening an old time vocal concert was given in the Unitarian Church. All participating were dressed in old time costumes and directed by Honorable Samuel Hastings. The choir was well worth going miles to see as well as hear.

On the following day there were sports and a ball game in the morning. After this the principal address as given by Reverend H. Barber of Meadville, Pennslyvania, a native of War-

wick and the son of Deacon Hervey Barber. The pageant was repeated in the afternoon and a grand ball was held in the town hall in the evening. The New Home Band of Orange, sponsored by the sewing machine company of that name, furnished music throughout the day. An exhibit of historical relics was provided on both days.

All went well with one exception. Governor Foss neither came nor sent a substitute or regrets, though he had promised to come. Perhaps he became aware that he had received only six votes from Warwick at his election. Be that as it may, the anniversary is still fondly recalled by many now preparing to celebrate the Bicentennial in 1963.

On February 16, 1915 the reign of Samuel Hastings came to an end. His portrait looked down on town meetings from its place on the wall, behind the town hall stage, for about 25 years, but together with all other portraits of former citizens it was relegated to the attic of the public library. A clock given by Mrs. Hastings in memory of her husband hangs on the wall of the selectmen's office. Its face fails to register either approval or disapproval of their acts, but if they keep it wound its hands will show that Sam is still trying to serve the town.

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BATTLE, BOOM AND BUST, 1915-1940

THE ANNUAL ELECTION of town officers, on the whole, has become a rather dull affair during the past century, due to the fact that the death of industries caused a decrease in population. This removed most of the able and energetic men, and those who remained had little opposition. And so we see town offices held year after year, not because they were particularly well administered, but because no one else wanted them enough to fight for them. As a result the same small group, usually dominated by one man, remained in control year after year, unchanged except by death.

Occasionally there came a revolution when conditions brought forward an energetic outspoken man who dared to oppose the entrenched politicians. Such a time arrived shortly after World War I in the person of George Shepardson, a prosperous farmer who also ran the stage that carried the mail to and from Orange. In 1921 he dared to oppose Orville Cole, who had held the office for the past six years. After a bitter campaign which encouraged some sleeping animosities to awaken Shepardson succeeded in winning the office.

When the result was announced the remaining two selectmen resigned (Fred W. Bass and Ernest Prouty). Shepardson was defeated six years later by a relatively new arrival in Warwick, Lee J. Dresser. Dresser was to continue in office 27 years, until 1954, when he relinquished it in order to keep his office as Road Superintendent, the town having voted that the Board of Selectmen could no longer appoint one of their members to this position.

The orgy of timber cutting that was at its height during the decade following 1890 and continued into the next century left many acres of land stripped bare of merchantable timber. This area, along with the abandoned fields, was left for nature to reforest with no thought of the future needs of mankind. This condition became widespread and the conservation of our natural resources and reforestation began to be the concern of those who recognized the danger.

Another result of the slaughter of the forests was the tremendous amount of treetops and branches, called slash, that was left to decay in the woods. This formed a fire hazard that often caused the destruction of millions of feet of merchantable timber. In order to spot the outbreak of any fire and subdue it as quickly as possible the State erected fire towers on high elevations. One of these towers was erected on Mount Grace in 1911. This was replaced by a second one 71 feet high in 1919. It was blown down by the hurricane of 1938 and replaced by a temporary wooden tower until the present one was erected in 1940.

One of those who became interested in this problem was Doctor Paul W. Goldsbury, a descendant of a pioneer family

of Warwick. He had returned to the ancestral home and was to play a prominent role in town activities for half a century. His grandfather, Captain James Goldsbury, was a leading citizen until his death at the age of 101. Doctor Goldsbury was instrumental in placing a bill before the legislature in 1915 to establish a State park or forestry reserve at Mount Grace. The bill was passed by the Legislature and the State Forest Commission was ordered to investigate the proposition.

The report was made to the General Court on January 4, 1916, and eventually the State bought most of the mountain. This began about 1920 and by 1927 the Commonwealth had acquired over 3,000 acres. It continued to buy land on a smaller scale whenever the opportunity arose. The Diamond Match Company and the New England Box Company had been buying large forest holdings, beginning at the start of the century. The Diamond Match Company had sold all their land to the State by 1940 and the New England Box Company, who had acquired some 2,400 acres in 1921, sold about 1,700 acres to the State after cutting off the timber. By 1962 the State owned 8,361 acres.

When the State acquired the various lots of land, the valuation set by the assessors and in effect at the time would be accepted by the State. There it would remain until changed by the State. Many people in the town felt that this valuation should be increased when the valuation of the land increased. They also became alarmed at the purchase of mowings, pastures or woodlands needed for farming, and as a result the town voted that the Moderator appoint a committee of five to investigate the situation to see if the town could get a better tax reimbursement for land purchased for forestry or other purposes. No further action is on record as having been taken by the committee or the town.

Joseph Peabody, State District Fire Warden, was in charge of the State land in Warwick until 1939. He stationed the Ford Model-T forest fire truck here about 1924, under the direction of Oscar N. Ohlson, and allowed the town to use it.

Beginning about 1930 the State began to develop a picnic area at the eastern foot of the mountain and later added facilities

for skiing. Mr. Ohlson, a lifelong resident of Warwick, was appointed Supervisor of the State land in 1939 and still serves in that capacity.

Despite the efforts of some of the former citizens who returned on Old Home Day to extol the future possibilities of the grand old town (which they had deserted), the majority of Warwick's people had bowed to the inevitable. They had approved the actions of the State as it gradually devoured nearly one-third of the town bite by bite until today the State owns 8,361 acres of land. The Director of Agriculture, elected by vote of the town in 1919 to assist the agricultural interests by working with County and State agencies, had lost his enthusiasm from lack of interest and the town refused to elect one in 1941.

Mounted on the outside of the Town Hall on the left side of the main entrance is a bronze plaque with the names of men from Warwick who served in the first World War. These men were residents of the town at the time they entered the armed forces, but one man was temporarily employed in the town with no family connections here. As a result he failed to return after the war and no record of his service has been found.

The names, together with their records, are as follows:

Howard A. Anderson, Coast Artillery, Fort Williams, Maine.

Frederick Merriman Barnard; 302nd Infantry; sailed for France July 4, 1918, stationed four months at Pariguix, France; commissioned 2nd Lieut., stationed Military Police School November, 1918, to May, 1919; Commissary Officer and Prisoner of War Supervisor May, 1919 to October, 1919.

Thomas Samuel Copeland; 6th Anti-Aircraft Sector.

Gustave De Neve, Ambulance Service Section 557, June 1917 to April 1919, including one year's service in Italy; Sergeant, 1st. Class.

Samuel Philip Freedman, ——— .

Chester Everett Larrabee, 60 Infantry A.E.F., April 16, 1918 to July 28, 1919; engaged St. Mihiel — Meuse — Argonne.

Charles Edward Lincoln; 3rd Division, 4th Infantry Regiment; saw service in the Argonne and at Mount Falcon.

Warwick also contributed its share in supporting the war effort. Orville W. Cole was appointed chairman of the Liberty Loan Bond drive, with Etta M. T. Bass acting as chairman of the Women's Division. The town's quota was $6000 and it was oversubscribed to the total of $7600.

Town affairs proceeded peacefully for many years, with little happening of major importance. In 1919 the Stevens family gave to the town a steel flag-pole 75 feet high. This was erected on schoolhouse hill in memory of Maria Mayo Stevens, a descendant of both Mayo and Stevens families. She was an exceptional woman both in her sterling character and her accomplishments. Her life was devoted to her family, her home and her town.

The town formally voted to accept the flagpole in 1922, and the selectmen annually appointed a custodian of the flag with instructions to display it on all holidays. After 40 years of service the bottom section of the pole was found to have been eaten by rust until there was danger of the pole falling in a heavy wind. The town decided that it was best to replace the pole with a new one, and the present 40-foot pole was installed to continue to perpetuate the name of Maria Mayo Stevens.

The year 1918 saw the close of Warwick's last industry, when George N. Wheeler closed down his box shop and retired. He died in 1926.

The box shop was closed until May, 1920, and then a syndicate bought it and organized the Warwick Lumber Company with plans to manufacture interior building materials. Extensive improvements were made, new machinery installed, and the prospects of a flourishing industry seemed excellent. And then a final blow crushed Warwick's hopes when, on August 13, lightning struck the buildings and they burned to the ground.

In 1925 the town voted to buy 100 acres of land at the junction of the Wendell and Hockanum roads to develop a town forest. Beginning in 1927 Town Forest Commissioners were appointed by the Selectmen to have the care of it. Oscar N. Ohlson has been a member of the Commissioners from their inception for the past 35 years.

Ernest G. Prouty was the last blacksmith to run the old shop that once had stood across the street from the village store. It had been banished and moved to the corner of the Wendell Road and Mount Grace Avenue when the town park was made. With the passing years the automobile had rapidly replaced the horse, and the blacksmith found he had more and more time on his hands to dream about the good old days when his shop was the Mecca that attracted the young and the old.

Finally, shortly after the end of the first World War, he gave up the struggle and closed the doors of his shop. The ringing of his hammer on the anvil ceased to be heard, and the sparks no longer flew as when he shaped the horseshoe. The pungent odor of the burning hoof, as the hot shoe was tested for fit, no longer assailed the nostrils of the gaping boys and the idle men as they exchanged the news and gossip of the day.

But the horse-drawn road-grader and the dump carts of former days were replaced by the trucks and plows of the town road department, so a new use was found for the old shop. In 1926 it was bought by the town to be used as a garage and workshop. Once more it satisfied a need until outgrown and, scorned for its old age and lack of modern conveniences, it was replaced by the new highway shop. Again abandoned to its memories (if a building has memories), it had but a short time to reflect on the past before it was ruthlessly destroyed, as offensive to the sight of man.

The year 1929 was outstanding in that two events took place that altered the appearance of the town. The first was the result of a town vote to install not less than 20 street lights at a cost of $24 per light per year. Thus a drastic change took place in the appearance of the town at night. The second event was the destruction of the schoolhouse by fire in the early morning hours. This was the climax of a series of serious fires that took place during the year. Three were brush fires, and one was the loss of the beautiful home of George A. Witherell on the Orange road. The previous year the Warwick Inn had narrowly escaped destruction when fire consumed the adjoining barn and dance hall.

And that brings us back to the Warwick Inn, now at the end of its first century of life. Down through the years as transient travel had become almost nonexistent the Inn had increasing difficulty to remain in operation. Its doors were closed several times until a new owner could be found to make another attempt. It is not surprising that under these conditions it occasionally fell into hands that, in these days when the temperance movement was strong and the sale of intoxicants illegal, would supply the forbidden drink. But there were virtuous citizens with suspicious minds and eagle eyes, and so on several occasions raids were conducted which sometimes did find the liquor. Then the Inn would change hands again and the local news correspondent would add to her item the hope that the new owner would conduct a proper business.

On one occasion it had a narrow escape from fire when it was unoccupied. A neighbor chanced to see smoke coming out around a window, and his prompt action saved the old building before the fire had obtained headway.

Captain Harry J. Lemp and his wife Clara acquired the Inn in 1921, at a public auction. Lemp was a very versatile man and made several improvements in the property, including the installation of electric lights. At the end of seven years the Lemps sold out to Philip Malouin and his wife Christine, who took possession in 1928.

It was soon after their arrival that the old Inn had a hairbreadth escape from destruction. No one knows the cause of the fire that broke out in the barn before dawn. A tramp had been seen around the village in the evening, and many suspected he had spent the night in the barn. Be that as it may, the Ford Model-T State fire truck performed at its best under the hands of the town volunteers. It succeeded in retarding the advance of the fire, as first the barn and then the dance hall adjoining the Inn were consumed. Help was summoned from both the Orange and Athol fire departments, and their opportune arrival saved the old Inn when many had abandoned hope.

The Malouins rebuilt the dance hall, and a costume ball was held as a dedication. The old Inn now settled down to the most

tranquil period in its long life. Mr. and Mrs. Malouin proved to be extremely well qualified to conduct the Inn in a manner that won the approval of all. Mrs. Malouin was gifted with a pleasing personality that made her a popular hostess. After a few years they were joined by her daughter Violet with her young son, Albert Milne. Together with the occasional help of Mrs. Malouin's sisters, affectionately known by the town as Aunt Martha Campbell and Aunt Barbara Sackett, the Inn became a decided asset to the town.

After the death of Mrs. Malouin in 1945 her daughter, then Mrs. Violet Edson, continued to operate the Inn until her death in 1960. Today her son Albert, his wife Letitia and their children carry on. Thus the old tavern has enjoyed one family ownership for 35 years.

Now the country was entering upon a period of years that was heralded by the stock market crash of 1929. The Depression of the 1930's had little immediate effect on the town. Most of the inhabitants still earned their livelihood within the town. With the coming of the Roosevelt administration and the New Deal, the agencies created to solve or relieve the unemployment situation extended to Warwick.

Orville W. Cole was appointed Works Progress Administrator and with the cooperation of the selectmen a number of projects were created to provide three days' work per week for those unemployed who were qualified. The projects consisted mainly of road work and the cutting of brush along the roadsides. The town provided the necessary trucks, tools and materials, but the labor was paid by Federal funds. The W.P.A., as it was called, continued to provide work for a varying number of men as late as 1941. It was discontinued with the business revival brought on by the war.

One of the problems created by the Depression consisted of the ever-increasing number of unemployed men who had no legal residence and were therefore classed as vagrants. In order to provide subsistence for these men, and remove them from the streets and the ranks of the unemployed, the Federal Emergency Relief Administration conceived the plan of placing them in

work camps. Warwick, with its acres of State land, was a logical site for such a camp.

When the town became aware of the plan to build a "Transient Camp," as it was soon called, many expressed concern for the safety of the women and children. As a result Major Thomas Quinn, in whose charge the camp was placed, appeared before an open meeting of the Grange to allay their fears. He explained that the camp was to be built on the Richmond road, east of Richards reservoir. It would accommodate 200 men and would be staffed with army reserve officers. No criminals would be placed there, and the men would not be free to visit the village or to roam the countryside. They were not prisoners and would be free to leave. Transportation would be provided to give them occasional supervised liberty in Athol.

The camp was built in 1934 and it continued to operate for three years. It is true that the town did not experience any serious trouble with the men. However there was no evidence that the town, the State or the Federal Government ever received beneficial labor for the money expended. Apparently the government found some other method to cope with its transient unemployed because the camp closed down long before the Depression ended.

In 1937 a number of engineers engaged in revising the Federal Geodetic maps took over the camp as a base from which to operate. These engineers occupied what now was called the Geodetic Survey Camp for about one year.

In 1935, one year after the Transient Camp was established, the Federal Government located two Civilian Conservation Corps Camps within the borders of the town. These camps were designed to give employment to the thousands of young men and boys who had completed their education only to find there were no jobs available to them. These boys, placed in charge of army reserve officers and under the direction of foresters, were to work on many projects. Most of these were to conserve our natural resources, particularly our forests. Water holes were made and roads built to aid in fighting forest fires. Picnic areas were developed and similar projects proved that in the C.C.C. Camps the nation reaped many benefits.

The first Camp, officially numbered 1153 but better known as the Northfield Camp, was located on White Road where the old Stevens tannery had stood, about three-quarters of a mile east of the Northfield line.

Camp Number 1155 was commonly called the Beech Hill Camp and this one was located on both sides of Gale Road at the corner of the Beech Hill road.

The camps each had four barrack buildings to house 50 men, an officers' quarters, recreation building, a dining hall and kitchen, a washroom and laundry, a small hospital, and garages with a repair shop. The camps were conducted on a semimilitary basis but no military training was allowed. No difficulties ever arose between the town and the camps, and their presence was welcomed by the townspeople.

Abnormal rains fell upon Warwick and the surrounding towns in March, 1936. The Federal recording station in Warwick measured the total rainfall from March 12 to March 21 at 8.66 inches, of which 2.92 inches fell in one day. In addition to this rainfall nearly three feet of snow lay on the frozen ground. Brooks became raging rivers, roads and bridges were swept away and rivers rose over their banks to flood the low-lying sections of the towns causing tremendous property damage. The Millers River was nine and three-quarters feet above its normal height at the fire station in Orange. Athol, Orange and Winchester, New Hampshire, were all badly flooded. All highway travel between Warwick and the surrounding towns was stopped for two days until temporary repairs could be made where bridges were damaged.

The C.C.C. Camps were of great assistance in bringing conditions back to normal, and gradually the town recovered. Plans were discussed as to steps that the Government should take to prevent a recurrence of the disaster but time soon dulled the memory, funds were not made available and so actually nothing was done.

By 1938 the Federal Government found that two C.C.C. Camps with another in Erving were more than were necessary, and the Beech Hill Camp was closed down. The boys scarcely

had left when disaster struck again in a manner undreamed of that was to eclipse all previous disasters.

Starting Saturday night, September 17, with a heavy shower and following it up Sunday afternoon with more rain, there developed what appeared to be a line storm. This storm continued through Sunday night, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. At 4:30 P.M. Wednesday, September 21, the hurricane broke with no warning, and continued until after eight o'clock. Winds reached a velocity of 100 miles an hour, and the official rainfall measured at Warwick's station was 10.76 inches. This tremendous rainfall had saturated and softened the ground to such an extent that, when the winds struck, the trees were easily uprooted. The high water experienced in the flood of 1936 was surpassed when the Millers River reached a height of 12 feet six inches above normal, exceeding the previous flood by three feet.

Warwick's loss was confined mostly to wind damage from the hurricane. A tremendous amount of work had to be done first to clear the roads of fallen trees. Crews of electric power and telephone companies from New York and New Jersey rushed into the area to help the local companies restore service. The fallen timber placed a tremendous problem on the Federal Government because of the brief time the timber would be on the ground before worms and decay would make it worthless. Both the loss of this timber and the financial loss to the owner must be kept to a minimum, so the government created the New England Timber Salvage Administration to take charge of the situation.

Sawmills were induced to come into the area and five were set up in Warwick. Two of these came from New Jersey and one from West Virginia. These mills were able to saw all the fallen timber here, but in neighboring towns the logs that could not be sawed were bought by the government. These were dumped into ponds where the water would protect them from the worms that bored into them. Here they remained for several years until they could be salvaged and sold to lumber companies, when they were in a position to handle them in their normal operations.

During the years that followed the hurricane, one of the busiest

men in this timber salvage business was Fred R. Lincoln of Warwick. Lincoln had come to Warwick with his father, Fred A., and his brothers Charles and Robert in 1911. At first Fred and Charles, with their father, drove teams hauling timber to the mills and lumber from the mills to the railroad. Then they began to buy and cut the timber and hire teamsters to drive for them. The father acquired the Wheelock house in the village in 1916, now the home of his son-in-law, Ralph Holbrook.

When World War I began both Charles and Fred went into the service. The war over, the two boys bought out their father's interest and together continued in the lumber business. Fred bought the home formerly owned by Charles Williams and Charles bought the adjacent house. About 1927 Charles went into operating a dairy farm with his father, and Fred carried on the timber operations alone.

Eventually horses gave way to trucks and tractors and Fred was operating on a large scale, principally supplying the New England Box Company with timber when the hurricane struck. Fred was in a position to reap the harvest. Within a month he had a 100 men chopping and cutting the fallen timber into logs. Timber cutting in Maine and New York practically came to a standstill to prevent the lumber market from being flooded by the hurricane timber. As a result choppers, swampers and woodsmen generally, swarmed into the 50 mile belt flattened by the hurricane from Long Island Sound to Canada.

During 1939 Lincoln confined his operations to the fallen timber in the town. He owned eight heavy trucks and the New England Box Company furnished him with 12 to 15 more. These trucks, with the aid of tractors and other equipment, he kept on the road hauling logs to the mill which ran 16 hours every day.

In 1940 he was ready to start fishing or bailing the logs out of the ponds in which they had been placed to preserve them. These logs were sold by the New England Timber Salvage Company to the lumber companies that bid the highest price. Equipped with a crane with a long boom mounted on a truck, Lincoln fished the logs from the ponds with ease and loaded them on the trucks. He estimates that under his direction over 30,000,000 feet of

lumber was salvaged from the forests. By 1943 timber operations in the area had returned to normal.

The tremendous amount of damage sustained in the area now provided additional work for the boys of the C.C.C. The Beech Hill Camp which had just been evacuated was not in condition to be used immediately. The Transient Camp on the Richmond road however was empty, so an entire camp of boys from Pittsfield were moved here for a short time. The Northfield Camp remained in operation until 1940 when the Corps was discontinued. After the war was over, the C. C. C. camp buildings were sold to individuals who dismantled them for their materials. The Transient Camp, badly damaged by vandals and thieves, was dismantled by the State.

15

WORLD WAR II AND BEYOND, 1941-1962

Warwick with the rest of the country watched and listened to the steps that Nazi Germany, under the strident urging of Hitler, was taking to secure her demands. One step merely led to another as each conciliation met with a new demand. Finally on September 1, 1939 Germany invaded Poland and, two days later, France and England declared war on Germany. The United States declared her neutrality, but it was clear where her sympathies lay and soon we were helping England in her desperate struggle for survival. Business began to boom as American factories began to manufacture the materials so desperately needed, and the Depression finally came to an end.

Then on December 7, 1941 Japan struck us at Pearl Harbor. Now we had no choice, we were in the war and it was either sink or swim. Those of us who are old enough will never forget those agonizing days as Japan advanced unmolested in her conquest of Asia and the Pacific. Germany now apparently had defeated not only France but Russia also, and the future loomed black and forbidding. We exerted every effort to turn the tide.

Here in our little town our boys in the National Guard were called at once, and soon more and more of our youth were

answering the summons. In the years that were to follow name after name was posted on the honor roll erected on the lawn in front of the town hall. Our boys were to scatter to the farthest places of the world as they served on land, on the sea and in the air. Fifty-nine names were to be placed on the wooden Honor Roll by Bendick Knudtson, a veteran of World War I who built, erected and cared for it. If a few of these names are found on other honor rolls, we can only say that Warwick claimed them as well.

Warwick's Honor Roll

Arthur L. Anderson
Charles V. Anderson
Virginia Fellows Antonio
Harry Baker
Ray Barber
Roy A. Barber
Russell H. Barbour
Donald Barbour
William Barbour
Wilfred Benoit
Arthur Bowers
Charles Brown, Jr.
LeRoy Brown
Frederick A. Campbell
James G. Campbell
Robert Carson
George A. Chaffee
George Copeland
Thomas Copeland
William H. Copeland, Jr.
Alfred Couchon
Arthur Cummings
Medos Cummings
Robert Chittick
George R. Elberfeld
Richard Elberfeld
Archie J. Fellows, Jr.
Winfred C. Fellows
Leroy Felton, Jr.
George J. Flagg
Arthur A. Flagg
Herbert Gates
Paul O. Hadsel
William J. Harris
Wallace F. Holbrook
Hollis Hubbard
Leland Jennings
Willard Johnson
Robert Kolka
Donald P. Lincoln
Richard Lincoln
Robert B. Lincoln, Jr.
Arlington Matthews
Albert D. Morse
Charles A. Morse Jr.
Carl Nordstedt
Arlan C. North
Albert Ohlson
Henry J. Pierce
George F. Rost, Jr.
Robert Smart
Joseph A. Stevens
Warren E. Taylor, Jr.
Henry H. Thorn
Kenneth Truckey
Erving Waite
Leon Ware
Henry A. White
Eugene Witham

Sergeant Winfred C. Fellows was to be the only man from the town who gave his life for his country. Winnie, as we all knew him, was extremely popular with everyone. When the call came in 1942 he entered the service and received his training at Camp Blanding, Georgia, in Florida, Tennessee, Indiana and at Fort George, Maryland, before going overseas in June, 1944. He was in the field artillery and saw service in France, Belgium and Germany. He was wounded September 17, 1944, in Krewinkle, Germany, and died the following day. After the close of the war his body was brought home and buried with military honors in Warwick's cemetery.

Many others, wherever they were called upon to go, served their country with honor in the performance of their duty. Perhaps the day may come when we can give them proper recognition but limited space prevents us from attempting the impossible.

While the major and all important battles of the war took place outside of the country, nevertheless the home front was required to make many sacrifices and contributions for the country's cause. These appeals were made by the nation, through the state and local governments, to appoint special committees or officers whose task it was to see that the government regulations deemed necessary were enforced.

The first request made to the selectmen was for the creation of a Rationing Board. The immediate shortage facing the nation was rubber, and the supply of automobile tires was critical. The selectmen then in office appointed Charles A. Morse as chairman of the Rationing Board, with Fred R. Lincoln and O. W. Cole as members. The government quickly added other items to the list of critical materials. These included gasoline, coffee, sugar, meat, fuel oil, butter, cheese, canned fish and edible oils. Oscar N. Ohlson was added to the board and Mrs. Grace C. Morse served as clerk. Later Mrs. Eleanor Morris succeeded Mrs. Morse as clerk, and Fred R. Lincoln replaced C. A. Morse as chairman in January, 1944.

To serve on such a board that dealt with and restricted the use of so many vital necessities of life was a very difficult task, and occasionally an unpleasant one. However as a general

rule people showed that they were anxious to do their bit to help the nation and cooperated with the government's regulations.

Steps also had to be taken to protect the country against the possibility of air raid attacks. This meant establishing air raid observation posts in every town, in order to provide warning of the approach of hostile planes. Someone must be on watch 24 hours each day to telephone the presence of any aircraft and its course to central headquarters. The possibility that enemy bombs might be dropped, with disastrous results, had to be prepared for even in as unlikely a target as Warwick.

Under the direction of Lee J. Dresser, chairman of Civilian Defense, and his staff plans were made and steps taken to prepare us for any crisis that might occur. Many meetings were held to discuss these plans, at which instructions in first aid and the duties of Air Raid Wardens were given.

George D. Shepardson, Jr. was appointed Chief Air Raid Warden. He and his Deputy Wardens attended weekly meetings in Springfield for several months receiving instructions as to their duties. They in turn instructed the townspeople in the part they were to have in carrying out the proper steps to take in the event of a raid. Many practice raids were held in conjunction with the surrounding towns and the state to make these plans as effective as possible.

The air raid observation post was a small building placed on the schoolhouse grounds. The Reverend Samuel Elberfeld was the first Chief Observer, and his was the responsibility for seeing that the post was manned by some reliable observer at all times. Here, of course, the women more than did their part. Many always will remember after working many long hours in a defense plant or on the farm, being forced to climb out of a warm bed in the middle of the night to drive up to the post and watch in the bitter cold for planes that rarely came. But the job had to be done, and so it was done until all danger of air raids was over.

The vacant C.C.C. Camp on White Road was taken over for a few months by the Army in 1943 and designated Camp 706. Here a contingent of soldiers was given special training designed to prepare them to act as military police. When the training was

(top) Congregational Church, about 1900
(bottom) Metcalf Memorial Chapel, formerly Preserved Smith house

(top) Store and Post Office, about 1920
(bottom) Blacksmith Shop, later the Town Barn, about 1920

completed they were sent to the North African theater of the war, and no more were brought here.

A few years after the close of the war, the Warwick Veterans' Association decided that they would like to perpetuate the memory of their comrade, Sergeant Winfred Fellows, who had died as the result of wounds received on the battlefield in Germany. After weighing the merits of many suggestions, the members voted to ask the town for an appropriation to enlarge the school athletic field, place a woven wire backstop with a concrete foundation, erect benches for the baseball players and bring the field into first class shape. A bronze plaque with a suitable inscription was to be properly mounted on the field, to be thereafter called the Fellows Memorial Field.

The town accepted the plan and appropriated $800 on June 3, 1948. A committee of five veterans composed of Lee J. Dresser and Charles A. Morse, veterans of World War I, with Archie J. Fellows, Jr., Paul O. Hadsel and Wilfred Benoit, World War II veterans, were appointed to attend to the project.

They secured a large white quartz rock from the property of Harry C. Earle as a base for the bronze tablet and this, together with a metal flagpole, were placed on a plot of ground in one corner of the field. The athletic field was completed as had been planned and was dedicated on Old Home Day Sunday in 1950.

The education of the town's children had not caused any major problems for a long period of years. After the building of the new Center School in 1930 all seemed satisfied with the modern building. But the two-room school system, with each teacher responsible for four grades of from 30 to 40 pupils, soon began to be criticized as outmoded. Under these conditions it was difficult to hire good experienced teachers and retain them for any length of time.

This condition resulted in the town voting at the annual town meeting in 1945 to appoint a committee of three, to work with the school committee to study the possibility of adding a third teacher, or sending the seventh and eighth grades to a neighboring town. The solution of this problem, together with school problems in other towns in the school union, was to be the major

concern of the town for over ten years. This story is told in detail in the chapter on educational development.

The town hall, widely acclaimed when it was built in 1894 as a shining example of the last word in town hall architecture, was soon found falling behind the times. In 1922 a basement was excavated beneath the banquet hall and the wood-burning furnaces were placed there. Two years later electric lights replaced the kerosene lamps, but the power was furnished by what was called a Holt Light Plant until 1929.

Once again the hall was abreast of the times, at least by country standards. To be sure, when suppers were served in the banquet hall water had to be carried in pails from neighboring homes, and no water meant, of course, primitive toilet facilities. An attempt was made in 1938 to install water and plumbing, but the money appropriated was insufficient to cover the bids received. The town increased the appropriation but nothing was accomplished. The war with its problems put all nonessential matters on the shelf, and so it was not until 1947, when the town transformed the banquet hall into a classroom, that the necessary alterations were made.

Twelve thousand dollars was appropriated to install water, flush toilets, an oil heating unit, and to make the necessary alterations to provide the schoolroom. The committee placed in charge was composed of Ralph F. Holbrook, chairman, Lee J. Dresser, Charles A. Morse, Bendick I. Knudtson and Ralph W. Witherell.

The year 1948 saw the purchase by the town of the so-called Allen property on the Winchester road. This was done to provide the town with gravel necessary to use in road construction. The property consisted of a small cottage and 50 acres of timberland where the road begins to descend through the "Gulf." Here Harrison B. Allen, an old Civil War veteran, had lived. He had carried the flag proudly for many years in the Memorial Day parades. When the task finally exceeded his strength, his son took over the post and promised the old man he would continue to carry the flag. The old veteran died in 1930. The son, now living in Springfield, never failed to appear on the appointed day until about 1940.

The purchase of this land was an important step because it provided the town not only a supply of sand and gravel, but later became the site of the present highway garage.

When the cold war with Russia threatened to become a hot war in 1950, the country began to be alarmed over the possibility of air raids. Now the danger of surprise attack was much greater due to Russia also having developed the hydrogen bomb. Once again it was all-important that we develop a system that would give the country as much warning of impending raids as possible.

Consequently the first step taken was to reactivate the air raid observation posts to observe and report all airplanes, as had been done during the war. Again George D. Shephardson, Jr. was appointed Civil Defense Director and Supervisor of the post. Beginning in January, 1951, practice or test raids were conducted and the posts were only manned when these were arranged. During these practice raids the fire station was used as an observation post. When the authorities requested that the post be placed on a 24 hour daily watch, the town voted at a special town meeting on October 6, 1952 to continue the sky watch. The small building used previously was set up again in its old location beside the fire station. When the nation is actually engaged in war it is not difficult to arouse the people to the dangers confronting them and many are willing to volunteer their time and effort for its defense. But in times of peace, with no definite threat to their safety involved, people are much more reluctant to give their time or thoughts to watching friendly airplanes.

Wilfred Benoit accepted the post of Chief Observer and Mrs. Fred R. Lincoln became his assistant. These with many others saw that the post was manned though it was by no means an easy assignment. It was extremely difficult to find people in a small town willing to spend from two to four hours sitting in the small building, to be constantly on the alert for planes flying overhead; to observe their number, type, size and direction in which they were going and immediately to telephone the description to the filter station in Albany, New York.

There were times, of course, when it was impossible to find volunteers for the entire 24 hours daily. Nevertheless the logbook showed a 70 percent coverage of the 24 hour vigil. This was accomplished by about 15 observers from Warwick, assisted by some observers from Orange.

In 1957 a representative from the Manchester, New Hampshire, filter station attended a Parent Teachers Association meeting in Warwick and presented pins to Ralph Witherell, Flora Witherell, Harry C. Earle, Alice Durkee and Janet Shepardson for serving 250 hours each as observers. George D. Shepardson, Jr., Post Supervisor, received a certificate recognizing his service of 750 hours as an observer.

On January 31, 1959 the State Civil Defense notified Shepardson the present radar network would give assurance that enemy planes would be detected before they reached the country so the post could be deactivated.

The old blacksmith shop had served as a highway garage and repair shop for over 30 years. None of its present visitors had any affection for it even though as boys they might have stood in the door and watched the blacksmith make the sparks fly. It was a miserable place to work on the town trucks, and the place was ready to collapse about them.

Lee J. Dresser, the Road Superintendent, had repeatedly complained about it and finally, after the town bought the Allen property in 1948, he succeeded in having the town vote to appropriate $500 to be used to cut timber on the property. The money received from the sale of the timber or the lumber would be used toward the construction of a town garage.

He now had his foot in the door and his next step was to have a committee of three appointed, consisting of himself, G. S. Anderson and O. N. Ohlson, to draw plans for a garage. Dresser was authorized to proceed with the necessary excavation, using highway equipment.

At a special town meeting this committee reported some progress, but requested that the town discharge it from further duty. This was done and a new committee appointed to determine the

estimated cost of the garage. As a result of the report of this committee, the town voted in 1955 to appropriate $4850 to construct the building as requested. When contractors were asked to submit actual bids, however, it was found that the amount appropriated was much too small. Here, with schoolhouse construction problems being much more pressing, all action ceased on the garage plans.

Dresser bided his time until the schoolhouse addition had been completed and then under his highway report in the annual town report of 1957 he thanked the town for the new garage. Considering that the construction of the garage had not yet been started, the sarcastic report spurred the town into action. When the annual town meeting was held the town voted to discharge the old committee appointed in 1954. A new committee of five, consisting of Albert H. Stoddard, chairman, Carl Nordstedt, Ralph W. Witherell, Donald Belsky and Charles E. Lincoln, Jr., was authorized to prepare plans, determine the cost and report.

The committee lost no time and reported on April 7, 1958. They were instructed to proceed with the construction, and an additional sum of $3500 was voted. Stoddard now declined to continue as chairman and Charles E. Lincoln, Jr. replaced him. The garage was completed speedily and occupied before winter arrived. It is of ample size and well constructed to answer the needs of the highway department for years to come. The committee is to be congratulated on a job well done.

In 1962 the State Department of Correction proposed establishing a prison camp on the site of the old Transient Camp on the Richmond road. This camp, similar to two others already established, would be used to house prisoners with good records during the final days of their imprisonment. Very slight restrictions would be placed on them and privileges would be granted with the aim of assisting them in their rehabilitation.

They would work under the direction of foresters and the Department of Natural Resources on state-owned land. Reforestation and conservation work would be furthered as well as the development of state parks and picinic areas.

One building is to be erected to house 50 inmates and a staff

of 11 men. It will have sleeping quarters, a kitchen and dining facilities, office and hospital. The basement will have recreation and laundry facilities.

A public hearing was held at the town hall, with both State Commissioners present, and the proposal was thoroughly discussed. Public opinion was heavily in favor of the plan, many having been convinced that the project would be a benefit to the town. As we write construction is expected to begin immediately.

PART TWO

ACTIVITIES

16

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

First Congregational Unitarian Church of Warwick

THE STORY of how the old orthodox church, organized in 1760, became Unitarian under the pastorate of Reverend Preserved Smith during the 1820's has been told, and also the builidng of the present church in 1836. Its subsequent history to the present day is typical of the struggle to exist that all rural churches in small towns with a dwindling population have experienced.

The Reverend Smith continued to serve as pastor until 1844 when diminishing financial support caused him to leave. A long succession of pastors followed, none of whom remained long.

In 1835 the Unitarians voted to invite the Universalists to add their subscription money to that of the First Parish and Religious Society toward supporting a minister. The minister was to exchange with Universalist ministers according to the proportion of the two funds. The plan failed to be accepted however.

The following year a somewhat similar attempt was made to unite with the Trinitarian Congregational Church in supporting alternating services between the two churches. It also came to naught.

The church was extensively repaired and painted in 1859 under the direction of Ira Draper, Hervey Barber and N. E. Stevens.

From 1860 to 1867 the church was fortunate in having the services of an able man during the trying years of the Civil War, Reverend Increase Lincoln. His own son, Sumner Lincoln, served throughout the war, rising from private to Lieutenant Colonel in a Vermont regiment.

In 1871 women were admitted to parish membership with the same privileges as male members.

In 1884 a Howard clock was given to the town in memory of Mrs. Blake Clapp, a daughter of Jonathan Blake, Jr. Mrs. Clapp had previously given the church generous contributions to be invested, the interest to be used to support the church. Her daughters have made similar gifts. The clock was placed in the steeple and is maintained by the town. The office of Bell Ringer was replaced by that of Caretaker of the Town Clock.

Mrs. Julia Ball Thayer of Keene, New Hampshire, the daughter of David Ball, gave a bequest of $1,000 in 1905 and in 1907 Mrs. Rebecca Trask of Boston gave a similar sum.

The Delva property was bought to serve as a parsonage in 1898 from a gift of money received from Frederick Smith, a grandson of Preserved Smith. In 1922, during the period when the church was federated with the Trinitarian Congregational Church, an excellent pipe organ was bought from the Brattleboro Unitarian Church for $500. This was a joint undertaking of the two churches.

There were two distinct organizations in the church: namely the Unitarian Church and the Parish Society. The former had become neglected gradually but was revived in 1910. A church covenant and by-laws were drawn up by a committee consisting of Miss Clara A. Jones, Leslie W. Green and Miss Rhoda Cook, and adopted by the Parish. The Parish Society recognized the church organization and granted it several functions. These were withdrawn in 1915 when it was found that the church had been illegally formed. A new set of by-laws was prepared by Clara A. Jones, Mary A. Tyler and Etta M. T. Bass and accepted in 1917. These remained in force until 1935 when they were replaced by a new set prepared by Etta M. T. Bass, Mary C. Cole and Frederick A. Lincoln. These are in use at present.

The mutual difficulties under which the Unitarian and Congregational churches labored caused them to agree to hold union services in 1917. These services were to be held one month in one church and the next month in the other. Later this was changed and services were held six months at a time in each church. Both churches retained their own pastors, who arranged the services between them. This arrangement was so satisfactory

that the decision was made to federate the two churches under one pastor.

This was accomplished January 31, 1921, the union being known as the Federated Church of Warwick. Each church, however, maintained its own organization and elected three members each to comprise a joint committee who, with the pastor, made the necessary decisions on the church management. Either of the two churches had the right to terminate the federation upon giving six months' notice to the other.

The federation proved successful until 1933 when dissension arose over the actions of Reverend Merritt Buckingham, a Congregational minister. As a result, the First Parish and Religious Society withdrew from the federation, effective December 27, 1934.

The actual membership of the Unitarian Church had decreased in 1933 to one, a Mrs. Julia E. Proctor who lived in Antrim, New Hampshire. The Parish Society however had many members who had not joined the church. On April 19 five of these people journeyed to Antrim and Mrs. Proctor admitted them to church membership. They in turn admitted others, bringing the membership to 14. Eleven more were added in 1936.

The centennial of the church building was celebrated in 1936 with fitting ceremony. Reverend Edward McGlennen, recently installed, prepared an excellent history of the church for the occasion which was read during the exercises. The 100th anniversary of the dedication was observed in January, 1937.

The Reverend Raymond Conley succeeded Reverend McGlennen in 1938 and served two years. He was followed by Reverend Samuel Elberfeld in 1940 who remained until 1945. From that year, services generally were held only during the months of July and August when visiting ministers were available to supply the pulpit, and at Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, Palm Sunday and Easter. An active Sunday School and Young People's Religious group were carried on throughout the year, and close affiliation with the Connecticut Valley Conference of Unitarian Churches was maintained.

During the pastorate of Reverend Raymond Conley in 1938 Mrs. Conley was instrumental in reorganizing the women of the Unitarian Church into a society to assist in carrying on the activities of the church. The first president was Barbara L. Holbrook and the remaining officers were Gladys Dresser, vice president; Mrs. Conley, secretary; Florence Lincoln, treasurer. The organization has been more or less active to the present time. When the churches became federated the second time, the membership included women from both churches. Today Mrs. Jacqueline Hadsel is president; Agnes Hubbard, vice-president; Lois Lincoln, secretary; and June Smart, treasurer.

The Unitarian First Parish and Religious Society of Warwick also maintains its organization with the following officers serving today: Barbara L. Holbrook, clerk; Jacqueline Hadsel, treasurer; Paul Hadsel, Joseph Stevens and Ralph F. Holbrook, members of the Joint Committee.

Trinitarian Congregational Church

When the First Orthodox Church under the leadership of Reverend Preserved Smith accepted the Unitarian doctrine, those who clung to the old beliefs gradually withdrew. As their number increased they decided to form a second church founded on the creed of the original one. Under the leadership of William Burnett, Jr., John and Francis Leonard, William Howard and Ansel Lesure, a warrant was issued requesting a meeting of members to elect officers. Apparently some form of organization was in existence prior to the first recorded meeting.

This meeting was held at the home of John Leonard, February 16, 1829. The following April an ecclesiastical council of neighboring ministers was requested to aid in forming a church, stating "that in the usual place of worship in this town they are deprived of the privilege of hearing those doctrines which in their view are the essential truths of the Gospel." (Trinitarian Church Rec., Vol I, 1829-1859)

The church was formally organized June, 9, 1829, under the name of the Trinitarian Congregational Church of Warwick. Services were held at the abandoned tavern until 1832. Then

a committee composed of Ansel Lesure, Francis Leonard and Appolus Root was instructed to collect funds, provide necessary materials and build a meeting house. This was located in the upper village, north of the present Dresser residence.

It was completed in 1833 and the Reverend Samuel Kingsbury was installed as the first pastor at an annual salary of $300. Dismissed in 1833, he was succeeded immediately by Reverend Roger C. Hatch, who served until ill health caused his retirement in 1853. He continued to reside in town and his daughter became the wife of Honorable William Windom, who was Secretary of the Treasury under Presidents Garfield and Harrison. Her daughter left a bequest to the Warwick Library in memory of her mother in 1959.

Reverend H. M. Bridges was pastor from 1854 to 1860. In 1856 the church offered to deed land adjoining the church on the south side to anyone who would build a house giving the church the privilege of renting it for a parsonage. Deacon George W. Moore accepted the offer; the house was eventually bought by the church in 1876.

The following ministers served the church until 1890 when a gap occurs in the records until 1905: E. H. Blanchard, 1860-1868; E. B. Bassett 1869-1874; S. W. Clarke, 1874-1876; John H. Garmon, 1876-1881; E. Squires, 1882-1889. The world famous evangelist Dwight L. Moody and his choir director Ira Sankey conducted a service at the church August 24, 1889 and again in 1890. The Northfield Congregational Church presented the Warwick church with a bell in 1889 which was drawn on a sled by the oxen of Deacon Chase. It was hung in the steeple erected to receive it on August 30 with fitting ceremony.

Reverend John Graham was pastor from 1904-1912, Anson Buzzell, 1912-1917, and Ralph H. Abercrombie, 1917-1920.

The church was incorporated by the state in 1917 and the parish society transferred its property to the church. The society was then dissolved.

On November 1, 1917 the Trinitarian Congregational Church voted to invite the First Parish and Religious Society of the Unitarian Church to join with them in holding alternate services.

How this arrangement resulted in the Federated Church of Warwick has been described in the history of the Unitarian Church.

Reverend Granville Pierce was the first pastor of the Federated Church. He was followed by Frederick Crane, Albert E. Mobbs, Clifford Newton, Arthur Wildes and Merritt Buckingham.

In January, 1922 the Congregational Church being in need of major repairs, it was decided to hold all services in the Unitarian Church. Finally the building was razed in 1929, and the land and adjoining parsonage sold. Thus when the federation dissolved the Congregationalists found themselves with no church and only small invested funds to carry on future activities.

Under the leadership of Reverend Harlan P. Metcalf, a retired Congregational minister, they held services in the Goldsbury and Francis homesteads and the Pulcifer barn in 1935 and 1936. Shortly after the death of Reverend Metcalf on May 16, 1936, the decision was made to purchase the old residence once the home of Reverend Preserved Smith and convert it into a chapel. Subscriptions were solicited, and aided by a loan from the Congregational Building Society the necessary funds were raised. The building, named the Metcalf Memorial Chapel in honor of its late pastor, was dedicated August 29, 1937.

The following ministers have served since that date: William H. Giebel, 1937-1942; Harry Erickson, Judson Stent, Loring Chase and Chester Seamans, 1943-1951. All of these were either retired ministers or were connected with the Mount Hermon School and all resided in Northfield. Supply pastors were also sent by Reverend Kenneth Beckwith, field secretary for the Massachusetts Congregational Conference.

In 1952 Richard Andrews, a student from the University of Massachusetts, began to conduct services. The following year members of both churches began to feel that the time had been reached when it might be possible to worship together for the best advancement of the religious life of the town. As a result Norman Durkee, Janet Shepardson and J. Arthur Francis were instructed to meet with a similar committee from the Unitarian Church composed of Ralph Holbrook, Joseph Stevens and Albert Stoddard to discuss the possibility.

The committee reported November 7, 1954, and the joint recommendation that joint services be held six months of the year in each church was unanimously adopted. Richard Andrews continued as pastoral supply until 1955. These joint services, being satisfactory, were continued, and on September 9, 1957 a meeting was held to discuss the question of again formally joining a federation with the Unitarian Church. A committee composed of J. Arthur Francis, Howard Anderson and Janet Shepardson were instructed to meet with the members of the Unitarian committee and draw up Articles of Federation. These articles were later approved by both churches for a two-year trial period, and the federation began November 1, 1957.

The Trinitarian Congregational Church maintains its organization with the following officers at the present time: Grace C. Morse, clerk; Howard Anderson, treasurer; Anderson, Marian Copeland and Fred Voorhees, members of the joint committee.

Federated Church Of Warwick

The first attempt made by the Trinitarian Congregational Church and the Unitarian Church to join together in a Federated Church was made in 1921. The conditions that brought about this step have been discussed under the historical sketch of the First Congregational Unitarian Church. The groundwork for this step had been made in the fall of 1917 when the dwindling congregations of both churches forced the members to realize the benefit to be derived from joint services.

On November 1 the Congregational Church voted to extend an invitation to the First Parish and Religious Society of the Unitarian Church to worship with them during the winter. The two pastors were to conduct the services on alternate Sabbaths. The arrangement proved successful and the services were continued until October, 1920. Relations between the two churches had been so harmonious that gradually the opinion grew that a federation of the churches was practical.

As a result a constitution was drafted and submitted to the two churches for approval in January, 1921. The constitution as adopted stated that "in order to better fulfill their common

mission to the Community, to conserve the resources of the Kingdom of God and to promote the unity of his disciples for which Christ prayed, do hereby adopt the following Articles of Agreement and constitute themselves the Federated Church of Warwick."

They agreed to unite for the support of one pastor and the maintenance of one program of work and worship. A Joint Committee composed of three members elected by each church had charge of all business affairs, was to have the use of land and buildings and the income of all invested funds. Four members of the Joint Committee constituted a quorum provided that each church was represented by two members. The committee elected a chairman, a secretary and a treasurer. Each church maintained its own organization as formerly and each had the right to withdraw from the federation upon giving six months' notice to the other. These briefly were the principal articles of the federation.

The Reverend Granville Pierce, the incumbent Unitarian minister, was the first pastor. The first year services were held during the winter season in the Congregational Church from Thanksgiving Day until Palm Sunday. The remainder of the year the Unitarian Church was used. Services were conducted also at the Brush Valley schoolhouse on Sunday afternoons. The following year it was decided that all the services in the village should be held at the Unitarian Church.

Reverend Pierce remained as pastor only a few months. He was succeeded by Frederick Crane who served four years until 1924; Albert E. Mobbs, 1924; Clifford Newton, 1925 to 1929; Arthur D. Wildes, 1929 to 1931; and Merritt S. Buckingham, 1932 to 1934 followed.

During the pastorate of Reverend Buckingham, the first Congregational minister hired by the Federation, the members of the church became dissatisfied. He presented his resignation but insisted on continuing as pastor another six months if he so desired. The church voted to accept the resignation, 21 to 17, but a disagreement now developed between the two churches as to the six months' period. Let it suffice to say that on June 26, 1934 the Trinitarian Church was notified that the First Parish and

Religious Society had voted 12 to 2 to withdraw from the Federation, to take effect six months from date.

The years passed by and gradually the bitterness faded away. The story of how the two churches endeavored to carry on has been told already, and so we come to the year 1954. The first steps taken toward a second union of the two churches consisted of an agreement to hold joint services. From November 1 through the month of April the Metcalf Chapel was to be used, and the remainder of the year the services were to be in the Unitarian Church. Each church was to use its own order of worship, but the pulpit would be filled by Richard Andrews who had been supplying the Congregational Church since 1952. This arrangement began November 1, 1954 and continued until the fall of 1956. Mr. Andrews resigned in June, 1955 and numerous supply laymen then filled the pulpit under the direction of Reverend Kenneth Beckwith, the Congregational Field Secretary.

During this period the arrangements for the union services had been under the direction of a Joint Committee similar to the one in the first Federated Church. J. A. Francis, Norman Durkee and Janet Shepardson of the Congregational Church met with Ralph Holbrook, Joseph Stevens and Albert Stoddard of the First Parish. In May, 1957 Howard Anderson replaced Norman Durkee, and it was this group with Albert Stoddard as chairman and Janet Shepardson as secretary who revised the old constitution and articles that had governed the administration of the first federation.

The result of their deliberations was submitted to the two churches for approval and adopted by both in October, 1957. Only minor changes had been made in the original articles. The first article that had read "First Parish and Religious Society" now read "Unitarian Church." The date of the annual meeting was changed from May 1 to November 1 when the new federation would become effective. The federation was to remain in effect for a period of two years before any action could be taken to continue or dissolve it. The two churches continued to maintain their individual organizations and the duties of the Joint Committee were unchanged.

The Reverend Randall Gibson was installed as the first settled pastor at a salary of $3000 and the use of the Unitarian parsonage. Charles A. Morse was chosen treasurer of the Federated Church, and under the leadership of Ralph L. Holbrook a canvas of the town resulted in financial pledges which, with the interest from the joint invested funds of the churches, promised to put the Federated Church on a firm footing.

Unfortunately the Reverend Gibson resigned in March, and all efforts to secure a resident minister to replace him failed until the Reverend Eino Friberg, a blind Universalist minister, was engaged July 9, 1962. During the interval numerous supplies have occupied the pulpit during the winter months. These include William Dickenson, Henry Baerman, Doctor Robert H. Bryant, Reverend Henderson and Reverend Ray DeP. Haas. During the summer months from June to October, the Reverend Thomas S. Cleaver, a retired minister spending his winters in Florida, has served as pastor.

Paul Hadsel replaced Albert Stoddard on the Joint Committee in 1957. J. A. Francis was succeeded by Frederick Voorhees, the present chairman, in 1960; and Mrs. Marian Copeland replaced Mrs. Janet Shepardson both as a member and as secretary of the Committee.

Both churches voted to continue the federation an additional two year period in 1959, and again in 1961, and thus we arrived at the present date looking hopefully toward the future.

Baptist Church

The first mention of persons designating themselves as Baptists is to be found in the town records of Warwick in the year 1774. This record stated that for the last two previous years cerain people claiming to be Baptists had refused to pay ministry tax and they had instituted a suit against the assessors for the return of tax money paid for this purpose. In August, 1774 the town voted to defend the assessors, but on December 12 the town voted to relieve these people from paying the tax, and on August 18, 1777 the suit was finally dropped by the Baptists.

The great majority of the Baptists lived in the eastern part of Warwick close to the Royalston line and worshipped in Royalston. In 1797 a Baptist church was organized in Royalston and the Baptists in Warwick united with them. In May, 1798, 22 of the members decided to withdraw and organize a church in Warwick and, agreeable to their request, they were dismissed. At their first church meeting Elder Levi Hodge was chosen as pastor. Doubtless services were conducted in private homes and in the village tavern. Elder Hodge proved such an able pastor that in 1801 the church in Royalston requested him to become their pastor. The invitation was accepted and in 1803 the two churches united again. On December 22, 1806 the town voted their consent that this society should be incorporated. Elder Hodge always resided in Warwick but he continued as pastor of the Royalston church until his death in 1819. After his death the Baptists of Warwick continued to worship in Royalston until January 20, 1843, when 14 of these people petitioned to be allowed to set up a branch church in Warwick Center. Their request was granted and on August 3 the Baptist Church in Warwick was organized with 51 members. An ecclesiastical council was convened on August 20 which settled the Reverend Ezra M. Burnham as pastor. Reverend Burnham was dismissed at his request in 1844, and he was followed by a long list of pastors whose terms averaged about three years.

Mention should be made in respect to Elder John Shepardson who was a resident of Warwick from 1817 until his death. His home was on the Hockanum Hill road but he conducted services in Ervings Grant, in West Orange and in the district schoolhouse in the south part of Warwick. He was highly respected for his ministerial services and widely esteemed for his exemplary character.

Church services were first held in Fay Hall, but after a month these were moved to Horton's Hall at the Warwick Inn. The frame of the meeting house was raised September 7, 1844, and the building was dedicated February 19, 1845. The church was renovated in 1881.

The last services were held about 1914 or 1915, and these

were held only occasionally on Sunday afternoons with the minister from the Royalston Baptist church officiating. By 1917 the members of the church had dwindled to a mere handful of whom Deacon Ludwig Nordstedt, the treasurer, was the most prominent. Convinced that there was no possible way to continue the church organization, he and Mrs. Baxter Worden were instrumental in securing the consent of the society to offer the building and land to the town for use as a library. This offer was accepted, and after the building was remodeled the library took possession in 1919.

Among the Baptist ministers who originated in Warwick were the Reverends Ebenezer Barber, Henry Holman and Jonathan Blake.

Universalist Society

The first direct mention of residents of Warwick professing Universalist doctrines appears in the town minutes on May 3, 1802, when it was voted that the members of the Universalist Society should draw the money they had been assessed for the support of the town church. These residents doubtless were converts of the Reverend Caleb Rich, who had resided in Warwick from as early as 1771.

In 1813 56 names were recorded in the Records (Vol. II, p. 198) as members of the Universalist Society. A petition was sent to the General Court asking to be incorporated as a religious society. The town voted to give its consent on December 30, and the society was formally organized February 25, 1814.

A petition from the Society, addressed to the selectmen and preserved in a chest in the Town Hall, discloses that on April 15, 1816 the Society

> being Destitute of a house for public worship of God, whereas the Proprietors of said town Gave Land for the Public Building and considering that we of Rite ought to have an Eaquil privilege with the other societies wish you to insert an article in a warrant — to see if the town will vote to give us Liberty to Build a house for public worship on the Common Land — as we in Duty Bound shall ever pray.

The records of the town meeting show however that the article was "passed over." (Vol. II, p. 276)

Again in 1825 a second petition states that the society

> has no established place of worship and their number being comparatively small, the expense of building a house would be a greater burden than they could sustain: that they generally attend with the Congregational (Unitarian) Society and pay something to the support of the minister. They therefore pray that the town will grant them the privilege of the Meeting house whenever Mr. Smith (the pastor) shall not supply the pulpit, to introduce any regular respectable minister of their own Religious Sentiments.

The town chose a committee of seven to investigate the proposal and they decided the town had no right to grant it.

No church building was ever erected, and the society usually held its services at the hall in the Warwick Inn. Ministers who served the society were Reverend Robert Bartlett, John Brook, Stillman Clark, T. Barrow, E. Davis and John H. Willis. The decrease in the population of Warwick resulted in a similar drop in the membership. On March 2, 1845 the society voted that its Standing Committee, Henry Conant, John C. Gale and Isaac Barber, confer with the Unitarian Church. They proposed "to supply the desk in the Unitarian House one fourth part of the time for the ensuing year with a good respectable minister." Apparently the plan was a failure and in 1852 the Universalists had ceased to hold services. The following year the Unitarians proposed that the Universalists add their subscription money to that of the Unitarians, and the pastor of the Unitarian Church was to exchange with Universalist ministers in proportion to the relative subscription money. This plan also failed and the society is believed to have ceased to function in 1854.

The following Universalist ministers originated in Warwick: Caleb Rich, Robert Barrett, Ebenezer and John Williams.

Deacon Hervey Barber, in that section of Blake's *History of Warwick* written by Barber, gives a lengthy account of the wave of Spiritualism that swept over Warwick in the winter of 1850 to 1851. Mr. F. Cheney and his wife, of Athol, performed many seances in private homes in Warwick, in which they convinced many that communication with the dead could be made. Many of these seances were held at the home of Barber and, despite the intense feeling that was generated between the skeptics and the believers, he apparently held to the belief until his death in 1885. We quote from his work:

> As the writer of this article is the only person in this town that has felt it his duty to preach this new gospel at home and abroad he and his associates desire that the above account of these things should be transmitted to posterity in this work, for their decision as to the utility and wisdom of their course.

This spiritualist movement also left behind it one monument to perpetuate the story to the present and future generations. Spirit Spring still supplies a constant source of water, and its story is most authentically told in an old letter written by Archie Jennings in 1856 to the lady who later became his wife.

The letter relates that Mr. Elijah Davis had been in poor health for many years and, although he had consulted many doctors, he could obtain no relief. Gradually he became convinced that he was dying. Then one night he dreamed that he was in a crowd of people when a stranger approached him and said to him,

> Mr. Davis, you are a sick man and if you do not get help you will surely die, but if you follow my directions you will get well again. You go to the upper edge of your rye field and dig and you will find a spring. You use the water for your common drink and wash you with it and you will soon be a well man.

The dream was repeated a second time and now Davis was convinced. He followed the directions and began to dig. Sure

enough water soon bubbled up at his feet. The letter continues: "He used it and is now a smart old man."

As one drives down the road from Warwick to Winchester on Route 78 about two miles from the village the road crosses Mirey Brook. A few rods further on a path on the west side of the road leads to Spirit Spring. The story of the healing power of the water became well known and as its fame grew an attempt was made to commercialize it. However tests made of the water revealed that its only curative powers lay in its exceptional purity. Today after more than a century has passed people occasionally stop to fill containers with the water.

About a quarter mile north of the spring a small cemetery can be found in the edge of the woods containing some ten gravestones still standing, though others have been leveled by the falling limbs of the trees. It is known as the Rich Cemetery because it contains many of the graves of this once prominent family. And here in peace and solitude, seldom disturbed today by a human being, is the gravestone which testifies that Elijah Davis reached the ripe old age of 87 years. An inscription often found on the gravestones of believers in spiritualism adds that the occupant has "Gone to the Spirit World."

17

EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We have previously told how our first steps to provide for public education were taken in 1768. It was then that the first appropriation was made to hire a teacher for a winter and summer session. The selectmen were to hire the teachers and establish the school wards or districts which were then but four in number. This arrangement was followed for several years, the annual appropriation increasing from ten to 24 pounds plus the interest from the fund established by the sale of the school land, which had been originally set aside by the proprietors for the support of the schools.

With the growth of the town additional districts were demanded and created until there were nine districts on record in 1785. Efforts were made by the town to reduce the number to seven in 1794, 1797 and 1799. However when the committees made their reports, which were apparently accepted by vote of the town, a special meeting would be called and the vote reducing the number would be rescinded. Thus the districts remained at nine until 1830. Then a tenth district was made by forming what was known as the Atwood District in the extreme northwest corner of the town, previously served by Flower Hill District #7. This district was dropped in 1880. The districts were increased to 11 from 1837 to 1850, when at the annual town meeting a committee of three was instructed to redistrict the town and reduce the number from 11 to eight. They could only reduce the number to ten, and there it remained until 1880.

A volume could be written about the school system as it was conducted in our rural towns from its early days until the district schools were finally shorn of their powers by the state. To describe them briefly is difficult but without question the management of the schools created the major problem of the day. There was no branch of town government where more issues could be raised and over which more bitter battles could be fought.

Warwick has preserved many of the records kept by these districts and together with town records they disclose the handicaps our ancestors faced to obtain the meager education possible. Each district, until the State Board of Education was established in 1837, controlled its school completely. The voters of the district met annually and elected a prudential school committee of one or more members. The school building was provided by the district and its original cost levied on the property owners. At each meeting the necessary repairs were discussed with any corrective action invariably postponed as long as possible. Arrangements as to who would board the teacher at the cheapest rate would be made as would arrangements for supplying the necessary fire wood. All other matters pertaining to the conduct of the schools would be left in the hands of the prudential committee. These

would include the hiring of the teacher and providing the necessary supplies. The length of the school term was largely regulated by the salary paid and the amount of money allotted by the town to the district. Generally speaking the summer term would be about eight weeks and the winter term about ten weeks. The children could be spared from the farm chores which were not so numerous in winter with less inconvenience than in the summer. Pupils were more numerous in the winter and also consisted of a larger number of older boys. This, with the hardships of keeping school during that season, usually made it necessary to secure the services of a "male." In the summer a female would be considered adequate. Numerous incidents are disclosed where a girl who had graduated the previous year would be hired to teach the following one.

In 1814 the town elected a Visiting School Committee of five members whose sole duty was to advise and assist the prudential committee.

In 1822 a committee consisting of Amos Taylor, Lemuel Wheelock, Joseph Stevens, Josiah Proctor and John Goldsbury was chosen to decide what changes should be made in the school committee and what powers should be entrusted to them.

They recommended that a uniform system of instruction should be given in all the districts. The committee should consist of two members, together with the minister, and it was their duty to visit and inspect the schools twice a year. They were to recommend books and methods of instruction to be used and examine the teachers to determine their qualifications. Their recommendations were accepted, and the Reverend Preserved Smith served on the committee during his long pastorate. However the town failed to choose another committee until 1826, and in 1828 it was voted that the committee consist of nine members, one to be chosen from each district, with Parson Smith representing District #1. Four years later the number was reduced to three until 1861.

In 1838 the State passed an act requiring the school committee to prepare an annual report on the schools to be read at the annual town meeting. A copy must be sent to the Secretary of

the Commonwealth or the town would forfeit its share of the state school fund. A few of the original manuscripts as prepared by the committees have been preserved and they present an illuminating picture of those early district schools. Brave indeed were the members of these early boards composed of the best educated men in the town as they dared the wrath of their constituents. How the townspeople must have squirmed in their seats as they listened to these scathing reports!

The condition of the schoolhouse, the ability of the teacher and the discipline exhibited as found on the visits of the committee were praised or condemned as each deserved. As to the attitude shown by the prudential committee of the districts in 1838 we find these words:

> Your committee are of the opinion that some advantage would result from more communication between the prudential committees relative to the particular wants of each school and the engagement of teachers. The prudential committees select their teachers and contract with them previous to their being examined. If strangers they are sent without any previous notice to the school committee for examination . . . Sometimes they call but a day or two before, or on the same day the school should commence. Should it then happen the committee are not satisfied with the teacher the alternative is presented of recommending teachers they do not approve or deferring the opening of the school at a time it is most desirable it should be in operation . . . Your committee did not visit schools in Districts 4, 5, 6, 10 and 11 at the close of the winter term on account of the negligence of the prudential committees in notifying them when schools would close.

It is apparent that the advice given by this board was not always welcome by some of the school districts. In 1846 at the annual town meeting a vote was passed which requested that only one member of the school committee should visit a school at the same time. At the end of the meeting more sober thought caused this affront to the committee to be rescinded.

Money for the support of schools was raised by a separate school tax levied on the inhabitants in accordance with their

valuation. This sum, plus interest from the school fund and aid from the state, was divided among the districts as the town voted annually.

The question as to the proper method of dividing this appropriation provided varied opinions that caused unending debate. There were those in the more prosperous districts who felt each district should draw the money they were assessed. The plan was generally followed in the early days. In 1792 another group who felt that it should be divided in proportion to the number of scholars in each district won out. But their victory was of short duration when in the following year the old plan gained the day. Another group was in favor of an equal distribution among the districts. Eventually a compromise was made and the method generally followed was to divide one third of the money equally among the districts, one third according to the number of scholars and one third according to the assessed valuation of the districts.

A study of town records indicates that there never was a period of years when the school system proceeded in an orderly manner. As the population of the town decreased some districts would be affected more than others. Each district was extremely jealous of its rights, and each effort made by the town to reduce the number of the districts would be bitterly fought by those affected.

This is shown in the frequent changes made in the number of members elected to the town school committee. The number was increased from three to 12 in 1861, then five years later it was reduced again to three. Again in 1870 it went back to 12. Nine were elected from 1874 to 1883. With the end of the school district system the number reverted to three, and there it remains to this day.

With the granting of state aid to the rural schools there had been gradually increasing control of the schools by the state, with the threat of withdrawal of their financial aid if the towns refused to accept their advice. In 1859 the legislature had required the town school committee to contract with and employ the teachers. It was further stipulated that no money could be paid the districts without approval of the committee. These facts were told

the inhabitants in the school report of 1860. The committee closes with this comment:

> It must therefore be acknowledged that the opinion of some, that we have unnecessarily assumed a responsibility or usurped the rights of the Districts, is not only absurd but an injustice to us. In complying with the requirements of the new school system we have endeavored to act for the best interests of the cause of education regardless of personal popularity; if censured for the course we have seen fit to pursue, it must be for having taken too great an interest in the prosperity of our schools as well as having regarded a law, the justice of which it is no part of *our* duty to question. Signed, G. C. Hill, C. R. Gale and E. G. Ball.

The state had consistently opposed the control of the schools by the individual school districts and gradually had gained supporters among those interested in improving the education of their children. As a result an article was placed in the annual town meeting warrant each year, beginning in 1861, to see if the town would continue the school district system. The town always voted to do so and also instructed the districts to hire their own teachers in defiance of the state law until 1870. Beginning in 1861 the town had voted that the school committee choose a superintendent of schools, this office usually being held by a member of the committee.

In 1869 the state passed an act to abolish the district system, and a special town meeting was called in April to see what action the town would take in regard to this act. The town refused to accept the act by voting to pass over the article. The town did choose a committee to appraise the value of the school buildings in preparation to acquiring them as town property, apparently realizing unhappily that a change was inevitable.

The mandatory action by the legislature was so unpopular that a storm of protest arose in all the rural towns. As a result the legislature reversed itself and allowed towns that preferred to return to the old district school system to do so. (Chap. 196, Acts of 1870) The town clerk records on September 6, 1870: "Voted to accept the act and return to the School District Sys-

tem." Warwick was not alone in this action. All the towns in the area did the same. Again the town voted annually not to abolish the district system and to authorize the prudential committee of each district to hire its own teachers. Actually however a study of the school superintendent's reports shows that he examined and hired the teachers subject to the approval of the districts. No incident of any conflict between the two is found, so it would appear that the continued opposition of the town was mainly that of defying the state.

The school system remained unchanged until 1882, and then the legislature once more abolished all control of the schools by the districts. (Chap. 19, Acts of 1882) It does not appear that the step now met with any serious opposition. The school districts had been reduced from ten to nine in 1872. They now continued to function as before, but the school houses were maintained by the town and administered by the superintendent, guided at least in theory by the town school committee.

Up to now we have confined ourselves to a history of the schools supported by the town. These were the ungraded schools that taught only the more elementary subjects often referred to as the three "R's," reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic. But the education of the children was not confined to these subjects if the parents were financially able to send their offspring to the "Select" or private schools held during the winter months. No written records have been preserved that give us any accurate description of these private schools. It is only from Cobb's diaries and the reminiscences of old residents as recorded at the annual town Old Home Day reunions that we are able to piece together the story.

We know that the Reverend Lemuel Hedge requested permission from the town to build a school building on the common land in 1771. No further mention is made on the subject but doubtless he and his successors, Reverend Reed and Reverend Smith, gave some advanced instruction to the children. Cobb tells us that Miss Patience Bancroft conducted a select school during the winter of 1813. It is evident from his diaries that these schools continued to be held by some very capable teachers

from that date until the war years at least. Many of the more prominent citizens sent their children to either New Salem or Deerfield academies after graduating from the district schools.

In 1883 the town appropriated $100. to support an evening school for eight weeks. This advanced school was taught usually by a teacher with at least some college background, and was restricted to pupils over 12 years of age. It continued until 1897, and then the state offered to pay the tuition of pupils who attended high schools in adjoining towns. The parents paid either their board or their transportation. Two Warwick children were enrolled in Orange in 1899 in this manner. In 1913 the state began to pay for the transportation as well as tuition, and from this time on most of the Warwick pupils attended high school.

The State Board of Education succeeded in obtaining the passage of an act by the legislature in 1888 creating school unions composed of several rural towns. The administration of the schools was to be placed in the hands of a single superintendent for all the towns in the union. The salary of the superintendent was to be prorated among the towns, but any increase over the salary then paid by the town was to be reimbursed by the state.

Warwick voted to join a union composed of Northfield, Leyden and Gill in 1895. This was a most drastic advance in education in the rural towns. In theory the local school committee still remained supreme over the superintendent but actually the latter, with the increased financial aid now received from the state, received little opposition from local authorities. Within six years all of the outlying district schools had been closed and the pupils were transported to the center school in the village which had been enlarged to three rooms.

In the school report of 1901 the report to the State Board of Education by the agent of that Board states in part:

> Six years ago Warwick maintained nine schools twenty four weeks per year . . . Teachers' wages in the eight outside schools were $5.00 per week, in the center school $6.00 per week.
>
> Now all the pupils are in three rooms of one modern well lighted, heated, ventilated building pleasantly situated in the center of the town. The school has three teachers, normal

school graduates of exceptional ability, average wages $9.00 per week, school year thirty-six weeks. Schools are graded, three classes in a room.

The town has in six years lengthened the school year fifty per cent., increased the wages of the teachers seventy-five per-cent, employed special teachers of music and drawing, without materially increasing the school tax of the town. A large increase in the amount of money received from the State has been of great benefit to the schools.

Three years later the school in Brush Valley was reopened and it continued to function until 1931. The three-room school in the center of the town held sessions in only two rooms in 1913 when the number of pupils had dropped to 53.

School matters proceeded smoothly with but slight changes until 1929. Then early one winter morning the townspeople were awakened and told that the center school was burning. The building was a complete loss. The town hall was converted into classrooms and used while a new two-room school was built. The building committee consisted of the three selectmen: Lee J. Dresser, chairman, Carl G. Stange, Frank W. Webster; the school committee: Julia Green, Edith P. Lincoln, Etta M. T. Bass. An excellent building was provided on the site of the old one at a cost of $14,000.

The new school dedicated in 1930 was considered to represent the most advanced school architecture of that day. Each of the two rooms accommodated four grades, and the total enrollment was only 54 pupils. This enrollment was to increase rapidly in the following years, partially caused by the closing of the Brush Valley school in 1931. It reached 86 in 1937. This meant that each teacher taught an average of 43 pupils divided into four grades. The town was fortunate indeed to have the services of Miss Abbie Cutting, who acted as principal from 1930 to 1941. Many of her pupils remember with gratitude the devoted labors of this teacher. Rarely did any other teacher remain more than one year under this heavy load of work.

Surely the school of 1940 bore little resemblance to the district schools still remembered with nostalgia by many who had

attended them in the "good old days." There were a great many of the townspeople who were skeptical of the claims of those who told them that the advanced educational facilities now available to the youth better prepared them to earn a livelihood. The trouble was in the fact that, having received the education, most of them left town.

Each advance in education had been preceded by a promise from the State to reimburse the town for most of the additional cost involved. Thus convinced that they were getting a bargain the town would accept the offer. Despite the reimbursement received from the State the cost of education had climbed constantly and although in theory the school committee still was powerful, in practice the control of the schools had gradually slipped away. Superintendent Linville Robbins, about to retire after 15 years of service, pointed out the true situation in his annual report in 1940.

Robert N. Taylor succeeded Mr. Robbins as superintendent in 1941, and three years later the town authorized a committee to study the possibility of adding a third teacher or sending the seventh and eighth grades elsewhere for their education. They reported a year later and recommended another committee to study the cost of an addition to the present school. The committee reported against the immediate erection of an addition, feeling that the cost of labor and materials might decrease. They recommended that the town transform the dining room in the basement of the town hall into a temporary classroom to solve the problem for the present. The report was accepted and it was voted further that an architect be hired to draw up plans for a one-room addition to the schoolhouse. Ralph Holbrook, Lee J. Dresser, Charles A. Morse, Bendick Knudtson and Ralph W. Witherell were appointed a committee to undertake this task. The same group also was authorized to spend $12,000 to remodel the town hall by installing a water system, modern plumbing facilities, and oil heater, and to make the necessary alterations for the temporary schoolroom.

Warwick was only one of the towns in School Union #22 that was faced with overcrowded schools or antiquated buildings.

(top) Center School
(bottom) Pioneer Valley Regional School

(top) Firehouse
(bottom) Town Garage

The State, recognizing the fact that this problem was common among many rural communities, urged the town to build regional schools for older grades or high schools. It was argued that larger high schools centrally located in a union of towns could provide larger and better educational facilities and a wider choice of subjects. The State School Building Assistance Commission was set up and financial aid was promised to help the towns pay the cost of new school construction.

F. Sumner Turner had succeeded Superintendent Taylor in 1948 and he now proposed that the towns of Union #22, Bernardston, Northfield, Gill, Leyden and Warwick, study the situation and make recommendations as to the feasibility of a Regional Junior and Senior High School for the towns. As a result Warwick so voted and the Moderator appointed Fred Harris, Albert H. Stoddard and Mrs. Adele Gillespie to represent the town in a Union committee. The other towns took the same action and pending their report the plans for a one-room addition to the Warwick School then in preparation were shelved. Already the opinion was growing that if the proposed Junior and Senior High School was not built, the Warwick Center School should be increased to four rooms, and not three, and a teacher provided for each two grades.

The report of the joint committee of the towns was submitted to the voters on November 16, 1950 for their action. However their recommendation that a Regional Junior-Senior High School be built at an estimated cost of $1,000,000, of which 65 percent was to be paid by the State, was defeated by several of the towns. Warwick voters opposed it by a vote of 71 to 37.

The Warwick School Building Committee was now instructed by vote of the town July 20, 1951 to have plans for a two-room addition prepared. Mr. Holbrook withdrew as chairman and Ralph W. Witherell replaced him as chairman, while Archie J. Fellows became a member of the committee. After a great amount of work had been performed, the legality of the committee was challenged. As a result the town confirmed it but added the members of the School Committee, Frederick W. Harris, Albert H. Stoddard and Adele T. Gillespie.

When the plans had been completed and the estimated cost of $83,500 for the addition made, it was found to exceed the original estimate considerably. Submitted to the town May 11, 1953, after several open hearings had been held, opposition defeated the proposal. A motion was made and voted to place a maximum cost of $65,000 on the addition and alterations, and a new committee was elected. Many of the old committee declined to serve and the new committee consisting of George D. Shepardson, Jr., chairman, Gordon S. Anderson, Charles A. Morse, Lee J. Dresser and Ralph Holbrook attempted the task. After many meetings with the architect and John Marshall, director of the State School Building Assistance Commission, economies were made that reduced the cost to about $69,000.

But before this result could be submitted to the town, the proposal to build a Regional Junior-Senior High School was revived by the towns of Bernardston and Northfield. On December 14, 1953 a special town meeting was held to act on the report of this committee. A second article asked consideration for another study for the proposed regional school. This article, acted upon first and favorably, resulted in the Moderator's choosing Albert H. Stoddard, John N. Durkee and Ralph Holbrook to meet with a committee from Bernardston and Northfield. Later Mrs. Emily Benoit replaced Holbrook. Robert P. Barnes of Northfield was chairman of this committee and Ralph F. Holbrook vice-chairman. The plans for the two-room addition were then suspended.

The report of the Regional School District planning board was presented to the town May 25, 1954, and the Regional School District was approved. Northfield and Bernardston also voted favorably, and a building committee was appointed by the three town moderators to choose a site and hire an architect to draw the plans. Emily L. Benoit, Albert H. Stoddard and John N. Durkee represented Warwick on the committee, headed by Wendell E. Streeter of Bernardston as chairman and Albert H. Stoddard of Warwick as vice-chairman.

Now that the town was to send its seventh and eighth grade pupils to Pioneer Valley Regional School, as it was named, the necessity of a two-room addition to the Center School was

removed and the plans were scrapped. The local School Building Committte, now consisting of George D. Shepardson, Jr., Gordon S. Anderson, Emerson Maynard, Adele Gillespie and Charles A. Morse, was instructed to hire an architect to draw plans for a one-room addition. In July, 1955 the town appropriated $38,121.93 for the cost of the addition. The new addition was ready for use in March, 1956 and the use of the dining room in the town hall as a classroom finally came to a belated end.

When the plans for the Pioneer Valley Regional School were completed, it was found that the cost of building and equipping the school would be $1,440,000. Warwick approved the borrowing of the necessary money by a vote of 38 to 11. The building was occupied at the opening of school in September, 1957, though still not completely finished. It was dedicated September 7, 1958. George M. Leonard former principal of Northfield High School, was chosen as principal.

And thus the school problem has been settled, we trust for many years. The town fought and wrestled with the subject for ten years. Many nerves were frayed, tempers lost and persons offended, but in the end the vast majority must feel that the best solution was reached.

18

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

THE FIRST STEP toward providing a library for the use of the inhabitants of Warwick was taken by the women of the town in 1815 under the guidance of the Reverend Preserved Smith. This was a private library and, because none of its records have been preserved, the only knowledge we have comes from a description written by Deacon Hervey Barber in 1874. He obtained his information from some of the surviving members at that time.

Apparently the organization was open to all women who agreed to pay 25 cents annually, the money to be used to purchase books. Meetings were held at the center schoolhouse and rules adopted necessary for the furtherance of their object. Some

of the members prominent in the movement were Patience Bancroft, Martha Leland, Martha Leonard, Mrs. Brown (wife of the doctor), Mrs. Preserved Smith, Mrs. Amory Gale, Mrs. J. T. Sanger, Sophronia Cobb, Experience Wheelock, Mrs. Elijah Fisk, Mrs. Abner Goodell, Sarah Pomeroy, Tryphena Goldsbury, Mrs. David Ball, Mrs. Jonathan Blake, Jr., Nancy Bangs, Betsey Fay and Mrs. Samuel Blake.

A library of about 75 books was accumulated, most of them classics of the day especially chosen to interest women readers. The association continued until 1842 when it was voted to unite with the Social Library which had been formed two years previously when the Lyceum had dissolved.

In 1822 a number of the town's leading citizens assembled at the tavern of Samuel Fay for the purpose of organizing a society to be called the Warwick Branch of the Massachusetts Peace Society. The preamble to the volume of records they left to us states the purpose of the organization which followed the close of the war with England, as follows:

> In the year 1815 a large number of the respectable citizens of Boston being strongly impressed by a consideration of the manifold crimes and tremendous calamities of public war; and regarding the custom as barbarous, destructive and in opposition to the design and spirit of the Gospel formed themselves into a society by the name of the Massachusetts Peace Society for the purpose of reforming the Public Sentiment on that subject; and in pursuance of their object the Executive Committee of that Society proposed a plan for the admission of branch societies to be formed throughout the Commonwealth. In pursuance of this plan and in conformity to the dictates of reason and conscience the inhabitants of the town of Warwick met and proceeded agreeable with the records which follow . . .

The constitution adopted by the society then follows. It elaborated on the preceding theme at considerable length and includes these words of optimism: "We have no distrust of the ultimate and complete triumph of *peace on earth and good will toward men.* The period is undoubtedly remote yet its approach is certain for it is the cause of God, of Christ, and of humanity."

The names of the 34 members were all those of leading citizens of Warwick.

The minutes of the society record only the actions taken at the annual meetings and a statement submitted by the executive committee at that time. These yearly reports at first have an optimistic tone as the cause seemed to make progress in Massachusetts and in England. Soon however pessimism and bitterness begin to creep in when it becomes evident that no real interest can be aroused as the bitter memories of war fade away.

The only public programs sponsored by the society consisted of a Christmas Eve service held at the meeting house. This consisted of a special musical program by the choir and an address by a speaker of note. Cobb relates that these affairs were excellent and well attended.

Each member paid a yearly assessment of one dollar to be used to buy books and periodicals endorsed by the parent society. These were placed in the hands of William Cobb who was elected treasurer and librarian.

After seven years the membership had dropped and the parent society in Boston recommended that the society dissolve. Apparently the Warwick members decided to broaden the scope of their activities in order to be able to interest more people. The old sociey was disbanded but immediately reorganized as the Warwick Association for the Promotion of Peace and Useful Knowledge. The library was continued, but the books that were purchased covered a wider variety of subjects.

A year later, in 1830, many of the leading citizens led, as usual, by Reverend Preserved Smith decided to promote a more active society to be called the Warwick Lyceum "to improve the members in useful knowledge and to effect this object they will hold meetings for discussions, dissertations or other exercises which shall be thought expedient." Membership dues were 25 cents for males and 12½ cents for females and boys under 15 years of age. Meetings were usually held twice a month from October 1 to May 1 at the Center schoolhouse.

The program usually opened with a lecture by an able speaker on some subject of general interest. This would be followed by a

prearranged debate on an important question of the day. These debates, conducted under established rules, were very popular, although at times the enthusiasm would get out of control and on several occasions threatened to break up the society. The questions debated are very enlightening in that they reveal the issues that were prominent in that day, and the decisions voted as to which side was victorious show the general opinions held by the majority. Many of the questions argued are still before us today. We find that the question of abolishing capital punishment and the question of electing the President of our country by popular vote were agitated then and are still with us today.

In 1838 the question "Which is the most to be dreaded, the effects of slavery in the South or a separation of the Union" proved to be so vehemently debated that the discussion was continued through three meetings before the vote was finally taken that slavery was more to be dreaded.

Questions on party politics and religious issues were forbidden in the constitution, but in spite of this they would occasionally creep into the discussions. Colonel Lemuel Wheelock attempted to have the constitution amended to include these questions, but he failed. However another protracted debate over the question "Ought the present Legislature to sustain the new law regulating the sale of ardent spirits?" proved to be too hot a question. After four meetings were consumed the vote finally taken was 21 to 16 against the law to prohibit the sale of ardent spirits. The names of those voting for or against were recorded in the minutes of the meeting, and it is evident that the Lyceum was seriously damaged over the dissension caused by this debate. The enforcement of this law was considered a disaster by the retailers of ardent spirits and their supporters while the temperance advocates were supporting the law. William Cobb as secretary of the Lyceum makes the following comment about the debate:

> The foregoing subject of debate having produced a great degree of excitement which led to *personal reflections* not admissable by the constitution of this Lyceum it was motioned by William E. Russell that the members return to the former method of conducting debates — and the motion was carried in the affirmative.

It is apparent that the participants had not been restricted to the panel of three speakers on each side. The public was allowed to express their opinions at length and this caused the debates to drag on through several sessions.

We can only surmise (the records do not state) that the intense feeling generated by this debate caused the Lyceum to be dissolved two months later, in March, 1840. But before this step was taken the library inherited from the Society for the Promotion of Peace and Useful Knowledge and expanded by the Lyceum had to be disposed of in some way. As a result it was proposed to create the Warwick Social Library.

A meeting of this organization was held on January 9, 1840, with Jonathan Blake, Esq. as moderator and Amory Mayo as clerk. A committee consisting of Reverend P. Smith, Joseph Stevens and Abijah Eddy were given the task of drafting a constitution. This called for a clerk, a librarian who was also treasurer, and three trustees to be elected annually. Any person could become a member by paying one dollar and an annual tax of 50 cents. Each member could take out only one book at a time for a period of six weeks. A fine of six cents was charged for overdue books and a like sum for every succeeding six weeks.

William Cobb who had served as librarian and treasurer in the preceding societies continued to act in this capacity, and the library was kept in his store. Two years later Reverend Smith, acting as agent for the Lady's Library, proposed to unite the two libraries if the annual tax would be reduced to 25 cents. This proposal was accepted, but from the financial statements we judge that the combined membership did not exceed 20 persons.

No records have been preserved from 1849 to 1869, but Hervey Barber states in his historical sketch of the library in 1874 that Cobb continued the library as long as he was able to attend to the duties of his office. He died in 1853, having served as librarian over 30 years. There had been no regular library organization for three or four years but books were taken from time to time. After Cobb's death the trustees chose Quartus M. Morgan as the librarian and the books were removed to his home. He continued to serve until 1869, when the Lyceum which had been reorganized in 1855 decided to rejuvenate the library.

Samuel Spooner was the moving spirit behind the project and he was authorized to appoint a committee to canvas the town and solicit one dollar subscriptions as membership fee in the reorganized library. He appointed Doctor S. P. French, Mary Pierce, Fannie Russell, Nellie Conant, Maria Stevens, Miss Bass, Harwood Proctor and Henry Jillson for this task. Over 60 dollars was raised entitling each donor to one share in the library.

Doctor French, Reverend W. A. Willard, Reverend John Goldsbury, Maria Stevens, and Emily Manning were chosen as the first trustees, Arlon Atherton was elected treasurer and Doctor French librarian. The name was now changed to the Warwick Library Association. A Fair and supper were held to raise money and from these proceeds and the money solicited books were purchased. These activities stimulated the interest of the entire town, and the natural outcome was a growing belief that the library should be a town institution whose benefits should be available to all.

As a result the town voted on November 8, 1870 to appropriate $100 for a Public Library. On January 9, 1871 the proprietors of the library association met and voted to "surrender the library to the town provided the town would accept the same and make a yearly appropriation for its support." This offer was accepted and five trustees were elected to administer the library which consisted of 460 books.

The first trustees elected were Reverend John Goldsbury, chairman, Doctor Samuel French, Hervey Barber, Jesse Bridge and William Taylor. Doctor French continued as librarian at a salary of $25 a year and served until he removed from town in 1879. The library was located in the house which was owned by Nahum Jones, now the Metcalf Memorial Chapel.

Nahum Jones succeeded Reverend Goldsbury on the board in 1872 and soon became chairman, treasurer, and its most influential member for many years.

Through purchases and gifts the library books increased to 1357 volumes in six years. One of the most generous of its benefactors was the Honorable Jefferson Bancroft, a native son, and then the mayor of the city of Lowell, Massachusetts. In 1877 he

offered a fund of $500 to the support of the library in memory of his father on condition that the town continue to appropriate at least $100 annually.

Clara Jones, daughter of Nahum Jones, succeeded Doctor French as librarian. The same year (1880) William Howard, a summer resident, bequeathed his house which stood just south of the Baptist Church to the town. The library was now moved to this house together with the town offices. Here it remained until the town hall was built in 1894, when it was moved into the room designed for it, now used by the Board of Assessors.

With the aid of two legacies each of $100 left by Alexander Blake and Samuel W. Spooner the library now held 3156 volumes. Doctor Joseph Draper, a native son and for many years the superintendent of the Brattleboro Retreat who died in 1892, left a fund of $500 to the library, the interest to be used to buy books on agriculture and biography. In 1895 the library received a fund of $500 from Mrs. Martha Clapp of Dorchester, the granddaughter of Jonathan Blake, Esq., and with its new quarters in the town hall its circulation now reached 3254. Despite the fact that the population of Warwick had steadily decreased, the circulation of library books had constantly increased and the importance of the library was recognized by most.

Perhaps much of the credit should be given to Miss Clara Jones, the librarian who served from 1880 to 1914. She had cared for her parents in their old age, and her greatest interest outside her home was her office in the library. She succeeded her father as treasurer and trustee, and after his death in 1903 she continued to live with her mother in the old home. After suffering the loss of an arm she was no longer able to serve as librarian but she remained on the board of trustees until 1919.

Mrs. Sarah R. Drury of Troy, Ohio, the daughter of Reverend Preserved Smith, left a bequest of $1000 in 1901 in memory of her father, the interest of which was to aid the library.

Mrs. Alice M. Hastings succeeded Miss Jones as librarian and served until 1918.

Mrs. E. C. Sibley, daughter of Lemuel Wheelock, died in 1884. She left her property in trust to her son, with the provision that

after his death one-half of the estate was to go to the Warwick Free Public Library, the income to be expended for books. This sum, amounting to $5000, was received in 1915. Other funds had been restricted in a similar manner and the library quarters were overcrowded. The trustees decided to seek permission from the courts to use part of this fund to enlarge the quarters or to erect a library building.

With the dwindling population the members of the Baptist Church had found their members so reduced that they had discontinued services. In 1917 the treasurer, Deacon Ludwig Nordstedt, and Mrs. Baxter Worden secured the consent of the remaining members of the society to offer the church building to the town for a library building. This generous offer was gratefully accepted and the Supreme Court now allowed $3000 of the Sibley Fund to be used to make the necessary alterations in the building.

The building was ready for occupancy in 1919. Ten years later electricity was installed, the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Stevens. Today the beautiful, attractive old building, kept in the best condition possible, provides ample accommodations for a well-stocked library that is the envy of many larger towns.

Mrs. Mary C. Cole served as librarian for 33 years, from 1919 to 1952. Mrs. Eleanor Morris succeeded her and continued to serve until her death in 1957. Since that time Mrs. Grace C. Morse has been the librarian.

Mrs. John D. Stevens of Baldwinsville gave a fund of $500 in memory of her husband in 1935, the interest to be used for nonfiction.

A legacy of $1000 was received by the library in 1959 from Miss Florence Windom, the income to be used to purchase books. Miss Windom was the granddaughter of the Reverend Roger Hatch, who was the Congregational minster in Warwick from 1835 to 1853. He continued to reside in Warwick until his death in 1868. His daughter Ellen was married here in 1856 to William Windom, who later served as Secretary of the Treasury under Presidents Benjamin Harrison and James Garfield. The Honorable William Windom with his wife and family were fre-

quent visitors to the town until his death in 1891, and the children have continued their interest in Warwick.

The latest gift received by the library was a fund of $500 from Albert J. Morris in memory of Mrs. Eleanor Morris, his wife, the interest of which is to be used for books of poetry.

And so we close the story of our library from its early days to the present, confident that it will continue to serve the town in the future as well as it has in the past. To the many able and dedicated trustees who are responsible for its success, especially in furthering the education of our youth, we give our heartfelt thanks. Their services, given without monetary reward, deserve more but their main reward should be the satisfaction derived from a task well done.

The present board is composed of Mrs. Bessie Thoren, chairman, Henry Nordstedt, Elizabeth S. Earle, Mrs. Helen Jay, Joseph A. Stevens and Olin L. Bowers.

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CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS AND SERVICES

Fire Department

Prior to 1950 the responsibility of protecting the town against the ravages of fire had been placed in the hands of a Forest Warden appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The office of Fire Warden is first mentioned in the town records in 1889 when three were chosen by election. From 1893 one to three were appointed annually until 1906. After 1906 the title was changed from Fire Warden to Forest Warden, but all fire fighting was under his direction. Frank W. Webster held the office for the 20 years preceding 1950.

Under the leadership of Forest Warden C. A. Williams the town bought a horsedrawn wagon equipped with ladders and tools useful in fire fighting. This was prior to obtaining the loan of a Model-T Ford truck designed for the fighting of forest fires from the State about 1923. In 1942 this was superseded by a secondhand truck which Oscar N. Ohlson, Fred R. Lincoln and

B. I. Knudtson converted into fire apparatus by mounting the pump salvaged from the old truck and adding another portable pump with 1500 feet of hose. When this piece of equipment seemed to be nearing the end of useful service in 1948, the town voted that a committee of five investigate the cost of replacing it. The committee was to investigate also the possibility of providing a storage tank or water-hole in the center of the town for fire protection. Howard A. Anderson, John Wallock, E. A. Gillespie, Gordon S. Anderson and Violet M. Edson were appointed for this purpose.

No action resulted from this investigation but enthusiasm was aroused and a movement began to form a volunteer fire department. A committee composed of Albert Stoddard as chairman, Edwin Gillespie, Oscar Ohlson, Leo Martin and Gordon S. Anderson drew up a constitution and by-laws for the Warwick Volunteer Firemen's Association. During May, 1950 the organization was completed with the election of the following officers: Oscar N. Ohlson, Chief; Albert H. Stoddard, Secretary; Gordon S. Anderson, Treasurer.

The following December at the instigation of the Association the town voted to buy another secondhand forest fire truck, formerly used by the State, for $1000. This purchase revived agitation for the construction of a suitable fire station to keep the equipment readily available during all seasons. So the Association volunteered to erect a fire house, furnishing all the labor and most of the materials *gratis* to the town.

The town jumped at this offer and at the annual town meeting February 5, 1951 selected a site on the west side of the Orange road, near the junction of the Hastings Pond road. They also gave permission to the Association to cut timber on town land to be sawed into lumber for the fire station. Later the site chosen was changed to the east side of the Orange road.

Gordon S. Anderson was elected to supervise the construction of the building. The heating plant was paid for by the town, plus an appropriation of $500, but aside from that the building was a gift to the town by the Association assisted by many friends in and out of town who donated labor, materials and equipment.

The fire station is an attractive two-story building with a gambrel roof. The ground floor houses the two fire trucks plus heating and toilet facilities. The second floor is designed for an assembly hall with facilities that make it an excellent meeting place for town organizations.

A second truck was obtained at this time and a 600-gallon tank mounted upon the chassis, thus providing a supply of water for fire fighting so necessary in rural areas. This was replaced in 1956 by a more recent model tank truck, but still a secondhand one.

About this time a great advance in the fire protection afforded the small towns of this area was made in the creation of the Tri-State Mutual Aid System. This System was composed of most of the towns in a radius of approximately thirty miles, around Greenfield, and includes towns in Vermont and New Hampshire. When a serious fire breaks out beyond the ability of the town concerned to cope with, aid is requested from the headquarters in Greenfield. Proper equipment is sent to assist from neighboring towns and the vacancy thus created is filled by moving more distant equipment into the void, until the crisis is over and the apparatus has returned to its home town.

Warwick entered into this cooperative association in 1952. Now, finding that its old secondhand equipment again needed replacing and also desiring to hold up its end in the association, a campaign began for a new fire truck. An article appeared in the warrant for the annual town meeting in 1957. As a result the town voted that a committee of five be appointed to "look into the matter of purchasing a new fire truck, new hose and fire fighting equipment," also the construction of two 25,000-gallon underground water tanks in the village. The committee chosen was Olin Bowers, chairman; Oscar N. Ohlson, Howard A. Anderson, Paul O. Hadsel and Edwin Gillespie.

Bowers declined to act as chairman, and Gillespie replaced him. After a long search the committee recommended the purchase of a new truck at the cost of $12,000. This was turned down by the town by a vote of 49 to 41. At the same time it was voted to build one underground concrete water tank on the How-

ard property owned by the town, and $2500 was appropriated for this purpose. This tank was built in 1958, and while the construction of the tank was done by a contractor the site was cleared, graded and landscaped by volunteer labor.

A second attempt was made to buy a new truck at a town meeting held on June 16, 1959, and this time the town voted favorably. Purchase of the new truck, acquisition of a larger siren on the building and the installation of a "Red" telephone network to summon members of the department together quickly resulted in the Board of Insurance Underwriters' reduction of the classification for dwellings within three miles of the station from Class F to Class E. This meant a reduction in the rate paid on fire insurance policies.

During recent years many fire departments have organized what are known as muster teams and during the summer season musters are held at various places. Here the towns compete with each other in stunts designed to demonstrate their skill as firemen. Under the leadership of Robert Smart, Charles Lincoln, Jr., Donald Lincoln and Maurice Underwood Warwick's team has more than held its own in these competitions.

In 1960, not to be outdone by the men, the women under the leadership of Betsy Lincoln organized a Ladies' Auxiliary to help the men in many ways.

During the years since the department was organized a great many money-raising projects have been held to buy equipment of all kinds. These include the presentation of shows, entertainment and auctions as well as providing refreshments and suppers on many occasions. Recently the Auxiliary, assisted by the Women's Guild, bought a resuscitator for the fire department.

Warwick is proud of its fire department but best of all it likes to show it as proof that community spirit is by no means decadent in our rural towns in New England. In spite of the hustle and bustle of the modern day, people are still willing to give their time for the benefit of their town.

The present officers of the fire department are Oscar N. Ohlson, Chief; Howard A. Anderson, Deputy Chief; Joseph Stevens, Secretary; and Gordon S. Anderson, Treasurer.

We have told how William Cobb received the first appointment as Postmaster in 1805 and on September 14 he took the oath of office. Later another post office was to be established at Root and Lesure's store in South Warwick on the Wendell Road, just north of the town line. Here at Root and Lesure's Pond, later called Harris Pond, a thriving little community once existed. Now only the home of Harry Putnam, grandson of Martin Harris, remains. This post office had a short life, lasting from 1829 to 1839, when it was closed for lack of patronage.

Cobb was to remain postmaster in the village until his death in 1853. Quartus M. Morgan succeeded him and served until 1858, when Lemuel Scott obtained the appointment only to die suddenly. Colonel Benjamin Putnam, proprietor of the Warwick Inn, served until Abner Albee was appointed by President Lincoln. He was succeeded in 1885 by Frank E. Stimpson who ran a store connected to the hotel and had the post office there until 1889.

Samuel Hastings and Myron Sampson went into partnership, bought the store in the hotel, and moved it into the empty bootshop. Samuel Hastings was postmaster two years, then sold his interest in the store to Sampson and resigned the postmastership in favor of Sampson. Sampson built the present store in 1894 and moved the postoffice there. In 1896 Sampson knew that a request for a change had been made by people in the town, but according to the newspapers he took no steps to prevent it. Suddenly the announcement was made that Charles H. Morse, a brother of Selectman Gilman Morse, had received the appointment. He announced he would open another store in the McKim cottage just west of the town hall. Young Morse was well spoken of, but the entire situation became highly controversial.

A petition was sent to Washington asking for the removal of Morse and the reappointment of Sampson. Before the result could be known Morse was found dead from a gunshot wound, an apparent suicide. The following day a letter from Washington

confirmed his appointment. The town was much upset and rumors flew thick and fast, but the reason for the act could only be surmised. (Newspaper accounts, Rhoda Cook)

Myron Sampson returned as postmaster but the following year, 1897, he resigned and sold his store to Felton and Wilson. Both George E. Felton and Mrs. Gilman Morse applied for the appointment, and the matter was put up to the Republicans of Warwick to vote upon. Mr. Felton received one more vote than Mrs. Morse. The caucus was not considered to have been conducted in a proper manner and a second one was held four weeks later, Felton winning 35 to 31.

In February, 1901, a movement was begun by John E. Darling of New York City, who owned a country home on the Wendell road near the junction with the Hockanum Road, for a rural free delivery mail service. A petition was circulated among the people to determine how many would like the service. The newspaper account of the action reported that 221 wanted it and only 71 "for reasons best known to themselves" opposed it, with nine uncommitted. It further stated that the driver of the mail route would be allowed by the Government to receive and deliver express packages and do all kinds of errands on his own account, receive and deliver mail, sell stamps and postal cards, register letters and give receipts for money orders, etc. Clearly the writer was in favor of the service.

But there were two sides to the question, and the opposition quickly charged that it would mean the loss of our post office and the daily stage to Orange. The newspaper assumed a "hands off" attitude, but on December 31 Mr. Darling announced the service would begin February 1, 1902, to be known as the Darling Free Delivery. The post office remained unmolested, so we trust everyone soon learned to love it. Three more years were to pass before the residents of the north end of the town were to receive the same service from Winchester, New Hampshire.

George E. Felton served as postmaster about eight years. He was followed by Warren P. Shumway who served three years. In 1909 Edward A. Lyman rented the store from W. P. Shumway and was appointed postmaster. He eventually bought the

store in 1936 and continued to serve until he retired in 1940. Mrs. Anno S. Earle received the appointment and moved the post office from the store into her home in the village just east of the Warwick Hotel. It had returned to the same building used by William Cobb for so many years. Miss Elizabeth S. Earle, her daughter, succeeded her mother in 1945 until Federal regulations forced her to choose between the office of postmistress and the offices of Town Clerk and Treasurer. She chose to keep the latter offices and resigned in 1950.

John Wallock held the office for one year and then Mrs. Marian Copeland received the appointment December 15, 1951. She moved the post office into a small brick building behind the general store and there it continues to serve the public today.

Warwick Veterans Association

Without any doubt Memorial Day has been the most prominent day in Warwick from its inception as early as 1874 down through the years to the present day. The records of the Warwick Veterans' Association begin in that year, though it is evident that the organization was already in existence. The memory of the 27 comrades lost in the war was not to be forgotten by those who were fortunate enough to return. Many of the survivors left the old home town for more promising fields, but those who remained and those who annually returned for the day banded together to honor their departed comrades.

As we read the record book now placed in the custody of the town library, we are deeply moved as we see the veterans drop one by one from the ranks until in 1916 four feeble old men vote to disband. Henry A. Witherell, the last secretary, closes the records with these words: "It is hoped that the townpeople will continue Memorial Services."

The muffled drums sad roll has beat
The soldiers' last tatto;
No more on life's parade will meet
The brave and fallen few;
On fame's immortal camping ground

Their silent tents are spread,
And glory guards with solemn round
The bivouac of the dead.

The town now gave the responsibility to the Selectmen, and they were in charge of the exercises until the veterans of the first World War reorganized the Warwick Veterans' Association in 1935.

The exercises have not changed to any great degree. They have been held on a Sunday instead of the official Memorial Day, first because of the great number of nonresidents whose ancestors are buried here and who can come more easily at that time; secondly because the town must rely on outside assistance to provide a band and the military form, beyond the scope of Warwick veterans.

Today the program begins with a concert by the Pioneer Valley Regional High School Band at the town park. The parade then forms, composed of the officers' colors, firing squad, veterans and the band, followed by the school children. The first part of the march ends at the church where the school children present a program and an address is given by the speaker of the day. The parade then reforms and marches to the Fellows Memorial Field, where a wreath is placed on the monument to Sergeant Winfred Fellows who gave his life in World War II, then proceeds to the cemetery and halts before the Soldiers' Monument.

Here the exercises are in charge of the Commander. Prayer is given by the Chaplain, followed by Lincoln's Gettysburg Address given by a schoolboy. The Soldiers' Monument is decorated by the veterans, then the school children place a wreath around the flag on each soldier's grave. The salute to the dead is given by the firing squad, followed by Taps. Recall is sounded and the parade returns to the town hall, where refreshments are served to those participating. So ends a day of tribute to those we should ever remember with gratitude and honor.

The first reference to the all-important subject of medical services is found in the selectmen's finance accounts shortly after the incorporation of the town in 1763, when the fee charged by Doctor Samuel Matton of Northfield is recorded. This highly respected physician doubtless performed most of these services from 1759 to 1769. Doctor Medad Pomeroy had settled in Northfield in 1762 and began to make his services available. His friendship with Reverend Hedge led him to move to Warwick in 1769, and he continued in medical practice until he returned to Northfield following his unhappy experiences during Shays's Rebellion in 1788. Doctor Pomeroy returned to Warwick in 1807, but did not appear to have resumed his practice to any extent.

Doctor Ezra Conant, Jr. began to practice about 1779. He was elected town clerk in that year and again in 1780. Suddenly he resigned his office and left town only to return in 1787, resume his office as town clerk and probably his medical practice also. He served as late as 1792. About this period a Doctor John Garfield is mentioned as spending some time in town, but we can find nothing definite about him. However a Doctor John Willson appeared on the scene at the same time, and made such an excellent impression that the town elected him to the office of selectman from 1797 to 1799. We find evidence that he doctored the "town's poor" as late as 1800. Doctor Benjamin Hazeltine arrived about the same time, 1796, and when the widow of Amos March died in 1804 Hazeltine, assisted by Cobb, performed an autopsy.

We now come to a time when doctors seem to come and go with great rapidity. Cobb, in the diaries, reveals much about them. There was Doctor Bliss in 1803 who fell into debt and Cobb attached his clothes and medicine. He left town shortly after. Doctor Abner Fairchild appears February 24, 1803 "and after some inquiry decides to make a stand." Doctor Peletiah Metcalf located in town in December of that year and the following July "he attended medical lectures at Hanover College."

The year 1805 saw the deaths of many children: "Nine children lay dead this morning in Richmond and the corner of Winchester, Warwick and Royalston." Perhaps the tremendous mortality rate, especially among children, explains why doctors came and went so quickly.

It was a time when the standards of the medical profession were almost nonexistent. If a young man aspired to be a physician, he might apprentice himself to some well-established doctor with a good medical reputation and serve as his assistant for a year or more. He usually attended lectures at a medical college for a few months and then found a rural town where his services might be in demand. If the town needed the services of a district school teacher, that would help pay his living expenses until his medical reputation was either made or lost.

Such was the case of doctors Fairchild and Metcalf. They left in the fall of 1805 and Doctor Ebenezer Hall arrived about that time. Ebenezer Hall taught the winter school on Flower Hill and when Cobb visited the school in his capacity as committeeman he "was extraordinarily entertained with the good management and conduct of the school."

At the end of the school term March 10, 1806, "Dr. Hall came to my house wishing to be boarded with the intention to tarry and practice physick." The story of how Hall sold the good people of Warwick on the lucrative possibilities of glass-making has already been told. He sold his practice to Doctor Joel Burnet in 1812 and, a year later, Doctor Artemus Baker also arrived in town and hung up his shingle. Baker was not a success and during the night of December 16, 1815 he absconded, leaving his debts behind him.

Doctor Benjamin Hazeltine was very popular but he apparently moved to Maine before 1812. We know nothing more about Doctor Joel Burnet.

But now at long last a doctor was about to arrive on the scene, who was to be a fixture until his death in 1865. Doctor Amos Taylor came from Northfield and soon secured a firm hold not only as a physician but also as a town official, landowner and a man active in church and social circles. He had studied medicine

under Doctor Elihu Dwight of South Hadley, then attended Yale Medical College in 1813 and 1814, and came to Warwick in January of 1816, to serve the town half a century.

Doctor George Wright set up practice here in 1832, but he soon found that he could not compete with Doctor Taylor and one year later he moved to Montague. Doctor George Field also tried in 1853 and 1854 but gave up the attempt.

In 1857 Doctor Taylor had reached the age of 72 years. It was logical to assume that the time had arrived for a young man to take his place. And so Doctor Gardner C. Hill was to practice here for the next ten years. By that time the dwindling population convinced him that Keene, New Hampshire, provided better opportunities. He moved there and became exceptionally prominent. However he never lost his love for Warwick and was a frequent visitor on Old Home Days.

After Doctor Hill left Doctor O. J. Barbour made an attempt to practice in 1868 and 1869. He was followed by Doctor Samuel P. French. With the aid of the offices of Superintendent of Schools and Librarian he remained until 1879. Doctor F. A. Babbitt took his place as physician in 1880. He too served as Superintendent of Schools, but in 1885 he was forced to go to work in the bootshop. Shortly after, he moved from town, and Doctor Fred E. Jenkins took over as physician, Superintendent of Schools and teacher, but he gave up the struggle a year later. He was the last resident doctor. From that time down to the present, medical services have been provided from the neighboring towns.

20

SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS

Lyceum

THE FIRST Warwick Lyceum which flourished from 1830 to 1840 is described in the history of the public library because it was a predecessor of that institution. When the Lyceum broke up, its private library became the nucleus of the Social Library, which in turn became part of the public library when it was formed in 1870.

We have found no indications thay any Lyceum existed again until 1855, though we cannot be positive of this fact. However in that year a young men's Lyceum was formed with a similar organization and program as formerly. The object of the society as stated in the constitution was "the mutual improvement of its members by Debates, Declamations, Original Composition and Foreign Lectures."

Weekly meetings were held during the winter in the Unitarian Church vestry. These began at 6:30 P.M. and were expected to close at 9:00 P.M. Those were the days of "early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise." The president assigned the candidates to give declarations, write original compositions, and the six disputants for the debates. At the close of the debate the winning side was to be determined by vote of the house which was, so far as possible, swayed by the weight of argument.

It does not appear that the female sex were ever admitted to membership in the Lyceum. Their names never appear either in the roster of officers or on the membership rolls. Nevertheless they attended and contributed written compositions. Later they edited a paper called the *Ladies' Gazette* which reported the activities and opinions of the so-called weaker sex to the amusement of all.

The war brought a change in the Lyceum, as many of the boys who had participated primarily in the reciting of declamations answered the call to arms. But the interest of the public continued unabated, and the conduct of the war was often debated to a packed audience.

Gradually however it became evident that enthusiasm was waning, and it was becoming more and more difficult to obtain people to participate in the programs. The Lyceum struggled on until 1870 at least. The last record book ends as of that year. The final pages are devoted to plans to reestablish a town social library.

Possibly the rapid growth of a new agricultural organization, the Patrons of Husbandry, or the Grange as it is better known, which began in 1869 had some effect on the death of the Lyceum.

Warwick Grange — Patrons Of Husbandry #85

The Grange movement, known as the Patrons of Husbandry, began shortly after the close of the Civil War. The pioneers of the organization were interested in the agricultural needs and developments of the country and they were impressed with the need for an organized action on the part of the farmers. The movement spread rapidly throughout the country and in 1875 it reached Warwick. The leading farmers were interviewed and, as a factor to interest them and induce them to join, the advantages of cooperative buying and selling were emphasized. The educational advantages and social life were not stressed at that time.

As a result the local chapter was organized at the Warwick Hotel on February 16, 1875, with George N. Richards installed as Master. Many people were reluctant to join, fearing that the movement would eventually develop into another political party. The ritualistic part of the program appealed to many and the literary and social features were very popular. The Grange seemed to prosper for a period of years. The failure to preserve records prevents us from knowing what caused a cessation of the organization in that period.

In the fall of 1903 the Grange was revived in Warwick, when 45 members assembled in the Unitarian Church vestry and reorganized with Reverend Napoleon S. Hoagland as Master. The Grange met twice a month and, aside from its social activities, it played a leading role in many community affairs. One of its most valuable aspects consisted in the close affiliations maintained with nearby Granges through joint meetings called "Neighbor Nights." The literary programs were excellent training schools for young and old in the days when amusements depended on local talent.

Like the best of well-regulated families, the Grange had its trials and tribulations down through the ensuing years. Organizations are composed of people bound together by common interests, but people often disagree on the manner in which these interests should be advanced, and so with the Grange. At times

it struggled up the hills caused by loss of interest and then it rolled merrily along when more energetic hands held the reins.

Changing times gradually caused its death in 1954. The decrease in interest in agriculture soon made it almost entirely a social organization. The advances in rapid transportation caused by the "horseless carriage" made it easy for people to obtain their entertainment outside the town. Radio and television provided interest at home and the Grange, like many other fraternal organizations, withered on the vine.

Surely the 50 years' service of George A. Witherell deserves mention. A charter member in 1903, he served as Master on different occasions 16 years and held many other offices through the life of the organization. He also held the office of Deputy in the State Grange for many years.

Woman's Guild of Warwick

In 1921 the Reverend Frederick Crane, pastor of the first Federated Church, conceived the idea of forming an organization of the women of Warwick, the purpose to be to promote and encourage any enterprise that was deemed for the best interests of the town. All residents of Warwick, without regard to religious affiliations, were to be considered members and no initiation fees or dues were to be assessed.

The plan met with an enthusiastic response, and the organization was formed with Mrs. William McLean serving as the first president and Mrs. Etta Bass as secretary. Then it began to carry out its program without any interruption for the next 40 years, right down to the present day. It has engaged in a wide field of community activities. From the sending of flowers and fruit to the sick, the charitable gifts to worthy persons on whom misfortune has fallen, to the support of any worthy cause, the Guild has answered every call. Social parties were held monthly for many years in the church vestry or the town hall, and young and old joined in the games and entertainment. The annual Christmas party for the children of Warwick, perhaps the crowning event of the year, has been a Guild enterprise. The Red Cross

has been aided with both work and money, fruit and vegetables have been collected for the Franklin County Hospital, County work among the children has been encouraged, children sent to summer camps, and many other similar worthy causes have been supported.

To obtain the necessary funds to carry on their work, an annual Fair and food sale have been held and meetings are held monthly for this successful organization. Present officers are Mrs. Maurice Underwood, President, Mrs. Robert Kolka, First Vice-President; Mrs. Howard Anderson, Second Vice-President; Mrs. William Bezio, Secretary; and Mrs. Charles A. Morse, Treasurer.

Parent-Teachers' Association

The Parent-Teachers' Association was first organized in the 1930's, but it enjoyed only a brief existence. The increased interest in school problems, created by the demand for more teachers and classrooms, caused a movement to once again reorganize the association. The primary purpose of the association is to develop a closer relationship between the parents of school children and their teachers and thus assist in solving the problems of both. However it does much more. It takes the lead in promoting new educational ideas and provides equipment to assist the school in the classrooms, the cafeteria and the playground.

And so in 1952 seven local women contacted Mrs. Robert Meyer, who was then regional director for the district. With her assistance, the club was formed with forty members. Mrs. Marion Cadrett was chosen the first president.

In its ten years of life the association has engaged in many activities to raise money to finance its many projects. Card parties, food sales, entertainments or shows, suppers and the sale of household products have all contributed to this end.

The major project consisted in equipping the cafeteria and dining room. The latest project, and one that will doubtless be continued in the future, was to help instigate with other local organizations a scholarship fund to assist a deserving local child in obtaining a college education.

During the ten years the following have served as presidents: Marion Cadrett, Freda Stoddard, Ralph Witherell, Emily Benoit, Emerson Maynard, Arlene Lincoln, Garlda Fellows, J. Norman Durkee, Albert Stoddard, with Maurice Underwood in the office today.

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PLACE NAMES — FOLKLORE — NATURAL HISTORY

THE REASON BEHIND the names bestowed on our many ponds, brooks, roads, hills and valleys — in fact many other natural or historical points of interest — is often hard to fathom. Jonathan Blake described many of the old original names, but some of these changed with the passing years. The general practice in the early days, when describing the location of any particular geographical feature of the town, was to attach the name of the owner to it. If it was the name of a prominent person, and if he and possibly his descendants remained in possession for many years, the name often became firmly fixed. Generally speaking however, as the memory of the name of the original owner faded away, the newer generation would adopt the name of the present owner when that person had become a resident of many years standing.

Names were changed more easily in the early days because there were but few maps of towns drawn in detail. These maps neglected to record any but the most prominent names of its features. The oldest map of Warwick we have found is one in the State Archives in Boston. This map, made by the selectmen at the request of the State in 1794, shows little more than the main or county roads. A similar request was made by the State in 1829 and as a result Jonathan Blake made the excellent map previously described. Other maps were made by commercial companies in 1856, 1858 and 1871, and when names are recorded we find frequent changes made.

In 1882 the United States Geological Survey began making

a series of standard topographic maps to cover the entire country. Maps covering this area were made first in 1887, and since were periodically revised. These maps recorded the current names of features more fully than any previous ones, and because they are made easily available, they have become in common use and accepted as accurate. Unfortunately some of the names set down by these map-makers apparently were not thoroughly investigated or not accurately located on their maps, but now they have been firmly fixed and cannot be challenged.

Moores Pond on the Wendell Road is a good example. In the early days of the Proprietors, Ebenezer Locke was encouraged to build a sawmill there and it was called Locke's Pond. Jedu-than Morse, the Revolutionary hero, succeeded Locke and although he died in 1776 Blake still calls it Morse Pond in 1830. But many had already called it Leonard's Pond for years and then Deacon George Moore acquired the mill and operated it until the 1880's. So it has been called Moores Pond ever since, although an attempt has been made to dignify it by calling it Lake Moore in recent years.

Blake tells us also that Morse Pond entered into Morse Brook, which flows southward to Harris Pond. The government maps however bestowed the name of *Darling Brook* on this stream for rather flimsy reasons. John Darling, a wealthy salesman from New York City, bought about 175 acres of land in the vicinity of the junction of Hockanum Road and the Wendell road about 1895. He built a large 17-room house and proceeded to impress the townspeople with his wealth and influence in high circles. To use an old country expression, he cut quite a wide swath for ten years, but he aroused intense opposition among certain town fathers who did not want any change in their way of life.

Darling spent the Thanksgiving holidays with his wife and hired man at his "Golden Rule Farm" in 1905. He returned to New York City and that night his wife awoke to find the house in flames shortly before midnight. She escaped, clad only in her night clothes and a fur coat. The hired man, failing to awaken, died. Failing to arouse her nearest neighbor she spent the remainder of the night in the hay in the barn, where she was

found when the fire was discovered the following morning. Darling planned to rebuild, but people will speculate and talk, and soon becoming enraged at the local gossip he sold out and departed. Nevertheless he left his name indelibly impressed on the brook that flowed through his "Golden Rule" acres.

Many other interesting stories could be told about the early settlers who left their names enshrined in the vicinity in which they lived. Reference has been made to many in these pages, as they or their families play their role in the town's history. Because there are so many we must be content to tell about the names which have a particular interest.

In the northwest corner of the town a large area has been mistakenly called *Flower Hill* for over a century by people who naturally, when they hear the name spoken, assume that of course it must be derived from the abundance of flowers that grow there. No one, unless informed of the true facts, would dream that the name given by the early settlers was actually *Flour Hill.* Again we refer to Blake's *History* and his story written 150 years ago and allow him to tell you again:

> The inhabitants that first settled this part of the town were in the habit of annually setting fire to the woods in the spring of the year, for the purpose of producing a young and tender growth of trees and plants for the subsistence of their cattle, not having pastures cleared as we now have. Each one would put a bell upon the leader of his flock or herd or horse for the purpose of finding them readily when wanted. Within my own recollection the hills to the west of us were burned over every year for the purpose above stated; and the illumination occasioned thereby for several nights will never be effaced from my memory. This practice had almost destroyed the first growth of timber on the spot last mentioned and the land was considered of very little value. Mr. Solomon Ager (who at that time was not considered a prophet) had the hardihood to risk his all (as he had nothing to lose) by settling on this open tract of land. Some of his wiser neighbors attempting to ridicule him for selecting so barren a spot of land to get his living on, the old man replied that "it would one day be the Flour of Warwick."

Perhaps today we need to add an explanation of this use of the word "flour." In the days of the early settlers flour was the final product ground from grain planted, cultivated and reaped to provide a necessity of life vital to their meager diet. Thus the word came to be used to denote the very best.

Another version of the way the hill was named was told to this writer many years past by Miss Mary Ball, a descendant of one of Warwick's oldest families. She related that in the early days one of the settlers took his grain to the grist mill in the north end of Warwick to have ground into flour. He threw the bag of flour onto his buckboard wagon without noticing that he had torn a hole in the bag on a nail. As he drove up the hill toward his home the jouncing of the wagon aided the precious flour to escape. The flour falling to the road spread out and left a white trail over the hill making it truly "Flour Hill."

Richards Mill Pond and reservoir lie in the northwest section. Here the sawmill of Samuel Scott and the grist mill of David Ayres were set up under the direction of the Proprietors of Gardner's Canada. Scott left Warwick in 1760 but his name remained to designate the brook that flows from his millpond to Gale's Pond. Another brook joins this brook from the northeast crossing the Richmond road at the foot of Felton's Hill. Jonathan Blake minutely describes this branch and calls it *Black Brook,* doubtless because its bed is composed of black rock. But in the passing of the years the name of Black Brook has become associated with the main stream and Scott's name has been lost.

There is a third brook joining Black Brook from the northwest rising above Rum Brook Road. This road acquired the name of *Rum Brook* as the result of a mishap which befell one Jonas Hastings about 1805. Shortly after the turnpike road from Athol to Winchester was built Jonas decided to take advantage of the new highway by his home and opened a tavern. His house stood near the junction of what is now the Richmond road and the road that runs west past the millpond to connect with the Old Winchester Road.

No good tavern could hope to succeed without an ample supply of rum to wash the dust from the throats of weary travelers.

So tradition tells us that one day Jonas left the village on his journey home with a keg of rum standing on end at the rear of his wagon. The road went up hill and down, crossing ridge after ridge of solid ledge between which the road dipped sharply. Perhaps Jonas had sampled his rum before buying as any prudent innkeeper should do. Or the warm afternoon sun caused him to doze on his seat. The horse plodded up hill and down dale until, after crossing a brook and ascending another hill, it reached the top of another ridge. Here it wandered to the side of the road and the wheel of the wagon rose and fell over a large stone on the roadside.

Jonas came to his senses with a start only to hear the keg of rum land in the road. He looked back to see it begin to roll slowly down the hill. Faster and faster it went, now bouncing merrily along with Jonas desperately in pursuit. As the keg approached the bridge over the brook, it veered to the side of the road, struck a rock in the bed of the brook and burst. In a twinkling the rum had merged with the water of the brook. 'Tis said that as word spread through the town men gathered where the brook crossed another road a mile below. Here it is claimed they could taste the rum in the water. From that day to this the stream has been called Rum Brook, and the road where the unhappy tavernkeeper bewailed his loss is Rum Brook Road.

We have told in the opening pages of our story how *Mount Grace* was supposed to have received its name as a result of an episode in King Philip's War. Though this story was later discredited no one has come forward with a plausible explanation of another version. We do know that records in the State Archives definitely show the name was firmly established before any grant was made to the proprietors of Gardner's Canada.

Slightly below the summit of Mount Grace a shoulder projects toward the northeast which has received the name *Bennett's Knob*. It appears that Warwick like all towns had its share of tall story tellers, and one of the first was a Samuel Bennett who settled and built a log cabin on the side of a hill due east of Mount Grace on the opposite side of the deep ravine through which Route 78 passes between Warwick and Winchester, New Hamp-

shire. Bennett, whose reputation as a braggart was well known, claimed among his other accomplishments to be a dead shot with a rifle. One of the stories he told was that one morning as he stood in the doorway of his cabin he saw a deer on this knob or shoulder of Mount Grace more than half a mile away. Seizing his rifle, he took aim and fired and the buck dropped dead on the spot. His incredulous neighbors, amused at his remarkable shot, called the spot Bennett's Knob and so it remains to this day. *Lovers' Retreat* is the name given to the particularly scenic northwest corner of Warwick. Here Pauchaug Brook drains a small pond and then crossing the state line into Winchester it descends through a picturesque rocky gorge. Rock formations have been given descriptive names such as *Pulpit Rock, Devil's Wash Bowl* and *Bears' Den Cave.*

South of Lovers' Retreat lies a large area still called the *Atwood District* because several families of Atwoods lived here in School District #10. At least eight houses in the early part of the last century stood in a radius of one mile. Today you cannot find a single year-round home in a radius of nearly two miles.

West of the Atwood District on the town line lies *Hogback Mountain* and south of it is *Bolster Hill.* The hill derives its name because it is shaped like a pillow or bolster. It lies above the road to Northfield, close to the town line.

Crossing over to the northeast corner of the town we find *Ball Hill* named because of its shape and rising to be the second highest elevation in the town at 1388 feet. This hill lies in the northern part of *Kelton's Corner,* another area of about four square miles once chiefly inhabited by the Kelton clan. They have been described previously at some length.

Beech Hill near the southeast boundary is another large area once quite heavily populated but almost entirely deserted today. The government topographical maps have changed the spelling to *Beach* but one will look in vain for anything resembling one in that rugged country. The names of this hill as well as *Chestnut Hill,* lying west of Moore's Pond, were named as a result of the predominance of beech and chestnut trees on each of them according to Blake's *History.*

Today our chestnut trees have long been a thing of the past although shoots still struggle to grow for a few years. The stately elm trees are rapidly dying, and now we are told some disease is beginning to attack our beautiful maples. Perhaps the day will come when science, now concentrating its efforts on reaching other worlds, will turn some effort to attempting to save the world they seem to be bent on destroying.

Laurel Lake is a pretty body of water lying across the southwestern boundary of the town. It was known for ages as Long Pond because of its long, narrow shape. The State owns most of its southern shore and here they have developed a picnic area and an excellent bathing beach. The northern shore is occupied by numerous summer cottages. The name of the pond has been "prettied up" and dignified by calling it a lake and adding the name of flowering laurel bush which grows profusely in the area.

The *Quarry Road* lies on the south side of Moss Brook and starts at the Wendell road near Harris Pond. It follows the brook in a northwest direction, crossing the Northfield town line and is believed to be close to the old Indian trail followed by Mary Rowlandson in 1676. South of this road and north of Laurel Lake lies the old stone quarry. It does not appear to have been worked to any great extent, but we are told in a newspaper clipping that granite posts placed around the town park in 1870 came from this source. Many of the houses in Warwick rest on cut granite foundation walls, and without doubt these were quarried in this vicinity.

There are only two names that have any Indian derivation, and these are questionable. When Milton Bliss dammed up Tully Brook in the southeast corner of Warwick back in the Civil War days, he created a pond that deservedly bore his name. Years passed away and so did Bliss. In 1892 a group of men in Springfield organized a hunting and fishing club. They bought 160 acres of land, including the pond of 40 acres. An attractive clubhouse was erected and the Sheomet Club, as it was called, was active for many years. One of the club rules was that no new members were ever to be admitted. As a result the ownership of the property came into hands of two elderly ladies. Recently the state has secured possession and plans are now being made to

develop the area for park and recreational purposes. Thus the name *Sheomet* was given to the pond. The name had been used previously by the Warwick Inn during the Civil War era and was supposed to be the Indian name for Warwick according to Deacon Hervey Barber. However we find that the Indian name of Warwick, Rhode Island was Shawomet. Apparently with a little ingenious alteration it could have been bestowed on Warwick, Massachusetts.

Hockanum Hill and *Hockanum Road,* lying north of the hill in the southern part of the town, acquired this name in some unknown manner during the Civil War era. The earliest name found for this hill is on the map of 1794 in the State House. It was then called Page Mountain. In 1830 Blake called it Round Mountain. According to the Dictionary of American Indian Names the work "hockanum" means "hook shaped." In this manner it has been used to denote areas near sharp bends in the Connecticut River in both Hadley and Northampton. Why the name was bestowed on the particular features in Warwick remains a mystery.

Only four of the many ponds shown on Blake's map of 1830 are designated as natural ponds. These consist of Long Pond now *Laurel Lake,* Morse Pond now called *Moores Pond,* Pomeroy's Pond now *Hastings Pond* and *Delva's Pond.* Today this latter pond, now not much more than a swamp, is almost inaccessible and consequently nearly unknown. In addition Blake shows fourteen artificial ponds created by damming streams to provide water power and reservoirs. Today many of these ponds have shrunken in size or entirely returned to the status of swamps, as floods washed away many of the dams.

Thus Root and Lesure Company's pond is now Harris swamp, Collier's Pond is Black Swamp, N. G. Stevens' Pond is Stevens' Swamp and Fay and Moore's Pond is Bass Swamp. These with Josiah Conant's Pond were the only ones large enough to be designated by having a name placed on the map. Josiah Conant's Pond now called *Gale's Pond* is the only one shown in 1830 that remains today. The dam at Gale Pond was partially destroyed in the winter of 1962, but Harry C. Earle, the present owner, had it restored and thus saved the pond for future generations.

However we do have other artificial ponds today which were not in existence then. These include *Sheomet Pond, Wheeler's Pond* and *Richards' Pond and Reservoir.* Sheomet Pond was built in the opening days of the Civil War. Wheeler's Pond was enlarged to its present size about the same time. Richards' Pond and Reservoir was the site of Scott and Ayres saw and grist mills pond. Apparently their dam had been destroyed, but it was replaced before 1856 as the pond is shown on the map of that year.

The two small ponds on Gales Brook at the foot of Barber Hill were classed as artificial ponds by Blake. Probably one or both were built by Benjamin Tuel who had a mill in this location during the Revolution. One or more mills continued to operate on these ponds for over a century. Wilber F. Webster was the last to run a mill, giving up the business about 1900.

John Henderson of Orange erected a large icehouse on the shore of the largest pond in 1935 and each winter ice was cut and stored to supply his trade in Orange for about ten years. Electric refrigeration proved the downfall of the ice business and the ice-house was dismantled in 1954. Eventually the dams on these ponds deteriorated, and today but little semblance of a pond remains.

Zilpha Smith

At the foot of the eastern slope of Mount Grace, Mountain Brook flows north draining both sides of the valley. Between this beautiful winding stream and the highway to Winchester, New Hampshire, lies a grove of pine trees and here the State has developed a picnic area with many fireplaces and tables for the use of the public. Close to the road at the southern end is found the remains of what was once the cellar of a house. Ash and maple trees now grow within the four stone walls, and their size shows that no house has stood here for many years.

This cellar hole is the sole remains of the house of a pathetic figure who spent her entire life within a radius of a few miles from this spot. Zilpha Smith was an only child of a poor and simple couple. She grew up and blossomed into womanhood,

and was considered an extremely pretty girl with a pleasant lovable nature. Eventually she fell in love with a dashing young man who was considered the "catch" of the town. When her betrothal was announced she was the envy of the other girls and her joy knew no bounds.

And then on the eve of her wedding, Zilpha was told that her lover had been involved with another girl and had married her suddenly. Heartbroken and with her pride sorely wounded, Zilpha became a recluse and never left the vicinity of her home until the death of her parents forced her to do so. She would walk to North Orange, avoiding all her old acquaintances, to trade the palm leaf hats she wove for the few necessities of life.

When her house burned down she moved the few possessions she had been able to save into a corner of her small barn and prepared to continue her existence. The selectmen insisted that she accept a small portable cabin, and she lived in this until ill health caused the selectmen to place her in the town poor farm where she died in 1885.

No monument was ever erected on her grave, but the outdoor fireplace erected in the picnic area beside her cellar hole bears a bronze plaque with the inscription "Aunt Zilpha."

Joanna Gibson

Deep in the woods between the Old Winchester Road and the Richmond road, and about half a mile east of the home of Oscar Doane (senior), an occasional hunter might stumble on an old cellar hole. Tradition tells us that William Dorrel, a deserter from the army of General Burgoyne in 1777, lived here about 1780. He moved to Northfield in 1783, and later to Leyden where he founded a religious sect known as the Dorrelites.

Ephraim Robbins was the owner in 1784, and he and his son continued to live there until about 1848. Eventually the place became abandoned and the large empty house stood alone in the deep woods for many years. Then one rainy day dense smoke aroused the town to the fact that the old house was burning. It was obvious that the fire was of incendiary origin, but it appeared to be a hopeless task to determine the culprit.

And then someone recalled that Joanna Gibson, a feeble-minded woman who lived with a family in the area, had been picking berries in the vicinity. When questioned Joanna readily told how she had taken refuge from the rain in the house. She built a fire in the fireplace to dry her wet clothes and then she lay down on the floor to rest in front of the open fire. Suddenly the Devil appeared in the doorway. He was entirely red from head to foot and had a long tail hanging behind him. He went to the fireplace, put his tail in the fire, and swished the fire about the room while Joanna fled from the house.

Perhaps the same Devil had been responsible for the rash of fires which had destroyed several other abandoned houses during the 1880's. However Joanna now lost the freedom to roam at large.

About 50 feet northeast of the corner of the Sheomet Clubhouse stood a famous pine tree for nearly 80 years. Here young Augustus Bliss hung his scythe and then was called to join his regiment in 1862. He died as the result of fever contracted in Mississippi and the scythe remained unnoticed until the tree grew and enclosed it in its trunk. Here it remained unmolested as a monument to young Bliss, and as a curiosity of nature, until the hurricane of 1938 felled the tree. Since that date frequent attempts have been made to secure the memento for future preservation but its possessor still retains it.

For over 140 years people traveling along the Wendell road have seen what appeared to be a gravestone by the side of the road, just a few rods below the southern edge of Moores Pond. A closer examination reveals that this is a monument erected to commemorate a tragedy which took place in 1824. The inscription tells that James, the three-year-old son of Francis Leonard, was killed here when he fell from a cart and the wheel passed over him.

Here I passed from Earth to Glory
In a moment quick as thought;
Passing strangers read the story
On this consecrated spot.

From time immemorial every new area opened for exploration and settlement is soon subjected to a search for precious and semiprecious mineral deposits. Warwick was no exception and the early settlers were successful in finding small quantities of some semiprecious metals or ores. A few feeble attempts were made to develop some of the deposits commercially, but they were found unprofitable and were abandoned.

Jonathan Blake believed that these early indications of iron, lead, copperas and firestone on the surface of the ground indicated that some day an inexhaustible supply of these ores would be uncovered. One hundred and fifty years have passed since Blake expressed his belief and if he is correct these ores are still well hidden.

We know that bog-iron ore was found a short distance south of Moores Pond. Several references are found to the fact that a forge was set up and operated there in the latter part of the 18th century. A trip hammer made a variety of tools, but the supply of ore was soon exhausted and the forge ceased to operate.

Iron rock ore was found on the old Johnson farm on the east side of Gale Road near the town line. Sometime in the early part of the last century Blake says that iron ore from that spot was transported by teams to Worcester to be made into emery.

Geologists have been known to spend considerable time on various occasions searching the area for these mineral desposits that could be obtained in quantities to make it a profitable venture. But to date, if there is hidden wealth in these hills, it is still well hidden.

Several interesting mineral deposits have been found and samples have been widely sought by many collectors of minerals. Radiated black tourmaline has been found in several locations on Mount Grace. An excellent specimen is exhibited at the Peabody Museum at Harvard College.

Another interesting mineral deposit is found west of the Hastings Pond road about one quarter of a mile from the village. Here the road crosses a bulge which is noticeable for its unusual

green and brown color. A path or road leads from the highway to a shallow pit. Here beautiful green crystalline epidote, associated with brown massive garnet, is found in abundance.

Warwick contains within its borders many natural curiosities. It is impossible to walk through the woods for any appreciable distance in any location without running across rock formations or finding huge boulders at high elevations, as if left by some prehistoric glacier. In fact some geologists claim that once a huge lake occupied the Connecticut River valley some 20 miles wide. As the waters receded leaving the river behind, many rocks or boulders were deposited, the presence of which is difficult to explain in any other way.

Deep round holes are found in rock ledges in several locations in Warwick. These holes, two to four feet deep and from one to two feet across, are believed to have been made by whirling action of water. Indians are supposed to have used them to cook by filling them with food placed over preheated stones in the bottom of the holes. They are generally known as *Indian Pot Holes*. Several of these can be found on the old Stevens farm and on the ridge on the east side of Robbins Road, directly east of the Stevens farm.

Back in 1870, when Hervey Barber completed Blake's *History,* he mentioned a huge boulder in the extreme northwest corner of Warwick near Hogback Mountain. At that time this rock, weighing about 100 tons, could be rocked with one hand. *Tipping Rock* is still easily found, but time or the action of some overly curious person has ruined its claim to fame as it can no longer be rocked by hand.

Deacon Barber also described a cave which he located at about 100 rods north of Stevens Millpond and 30 rods east of the Northfield town line. He claimed the cave would shelter 500 men. Today this cave is about two miles from the nearest dwelling. It seems fantastic to say a cave of this size could become lost, but recently when an attempt to find it was made it seemed to be a fact. Many elderly people who had lived all their lives in Warwick never had visited it. Finally George Shepardson said he had visited it many years ago and he would lead a party to it.

Starting by a large rock about one-eighth of a mile north of Stevens Pond we went west, skirting the north edge of the pond. We proceeded slightly more than half a mile, until we came to the edge of a plateau with the ground descending steeply into a valley before us. We then turned north along the edge of the plateau, until we came out on the top of a huge granite rock once nearly 100 feet long.

The best description we can give is to say it was shaped like a long loaf of bread about 20 feet across the top and 25 feet high. One end and one side were imbedded in the top of the embankment, with the top of the rock level with the ground. The other side and end faced the valley below. The north end of the loaf was once perhaps five or six feet above the ground and doubtless at one time would have sheltered 500 men. But the tremendous weight of this unsupported end had been too much At some time the long loaf had split across in the middle as cleanly as if cut with a knife. The northern end had fallen forward toward the valley below until its outer edge struck a ridge of rock. At the extreme northern end of this section, a second piece of the bottom of the loaf fell away into the valley below, leaving a projecting roof of rock about four feet thick over an area of about 15 square feet.

There is a passage under this half of the original loaf about 35 feet long. At the southern end a man could stand upright. Then the roof descends gradually until one would crawl out of the northern end on his stomach. Here you would find yourself under the projecting roof of rock open on two sides, but where perhaps 100 people could find shelter. Without doubt Indians and later white men have found refuge from sudden storms here. Bears too have certainly hibernated here during the long winters, but from the evidence found we would say porcupines and other smaller animals take full advantage of the facilities provided by Mother Nature.

Perhaps the best known rock rests on the surface of the ground by the roadside, as if left by some gigantic hand millions of years ago. Lying on the west side of the Hastings Pond road, just a short distance from the village, this granite boulder appears simi-

lar to a huge egg lying on its side. Originally about 30 feet high and 20 feet in diameter, a large section of the pointed end was split off by human hands many years ago. Possibly it was intended to be used as a building stone, then the idea was abandoned.

The Athol Young Men's Christian Association had a summer camp for boys in the vicinity of the rock in 1916. Adopting the Indian name for Big Rock for their camp they called it Camp Wawbeek. Fred Bergquist, a former granite cutter from Quincy and then a resident of Warwick, cut the name "Wawbeek" in deep letters near the top of the rock. Beneath this name are the words "In the Beginning God." Thus the rock reminds us of the Creator who made our earth with all its awe-inspiring features.

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EPILOGUE

Now we have brought our history of Warwick down to the present day. We will add a very brief description of the town at its bicentennial observance as an incorporated town, for the benefit of future generations. Life indeed bears little resemblance to that of our forebears. The changes that began with the invention of the steam engine in the early part of the last century exceeded the wildest dreams of those who looked forward to the future. We in turn wonder what the future will bring in the next century and if this will be a better world in which to live.

Today agriculture as a means of earning a livelihood in Warwick is almost nonexistent. Mass production, heavy expensive farm machinery, government regulations have all joined to make it impossible to operate successfully among the rugged rocky hills of our town. Some carry on agricultural activities as a secondary source of income but their primary source is found in some other form of employment, often outside the borders of the town.

There are five dairy farms producing milk commercially. This milk is collected in tank trucks and transported to large dairies where it is processed for the consumer. These farms are owned by Wilfred Benoit on the Orange road, Arthur Bowers at Mayo's Four Corners, Oliver Fellows on the Chase road, Oscar Doane, Jr., on the old Winchester road and Charles E. Lincoln on the Athol road.

Dairy farmers have found it advantageous to organize into societies to protect and advance their industry. The first of these was the North Central Massachusetts Dairymen's Association, Inc., organized in 1954. Oscar Doane, Jr. was one of the founders of this organization and has served as its president from its inception to the present time. Doane also was a founder and director of the Massachusetts Federation of Dairy Associations, Inc., which is composed of five area associations. Arthur L. Bowers and Charles E. Lincoln have served as directors of the local and state associations.

The raising of poultry for their meat and the production of eggs seems to fluctuate in cycles from a profitable business to one of overexpansion. It is now going through a depression caused by overproduction resulting in low prices. Because of heavy operating expenses many poultry houses are now empty. Among those formerly engaged in this business were Clarence Rhodes, Delbert Rhoades, Russell F. Webster and Oscar Youngman. Today only Gordon S. Anderson makes the poultry industry his major occupation.

During the past decade a new industry has been developed and increased in Warwick and the neighboring towns. The raising of mink to provide fur for milady's adornment has been found to be a profitable enterprise. Robert Kolka on the Wendell road, Ferdinand Kuljus and Walter Romelt each has engaged in this business on a large scale.

The principal natural asset of Warwick still remains its ever-growing timber. Despite the fact that the many sawmills, which once did such a thriving business, have now been reduced to two permanent mills the production of lumber continues to employ many men. Arthur J. Fournier has a permanent mill on the Orange road which is still active and Oscar Doane, Jr. has a mill on the Winchester road which operates on occasions. Other portable mills are frequently set up on locations where timber is being cut.

Among the men who are engaged in some operation connected with either the manufacture or the transportation of lumber are Roy Barber, Arthur Fournier, Hollis and Kenneth Hubbard, Earl G. Joslin, Fred R. Lincoln, Kenneth Matthews, Stephen Clark and Karl B. Smith.

Warwick has been fortunate in finding one man who had the initiative and skill to establish an enterprise far from the city. Edwin A. Gillespie, a highly trained lithographer, married Miss Adele Carlson and made his home on the old Richmond road. He was the first to begin the raising of mink for their fur pelts, but after a few years he decided it was more profitable to return to his highly specialized trade. The amount of traveling involved in going to and from employment and the belief that he could

operate a business of his own in the country persuaded him to do so.

Beginning in 1949 he developed a business making color reproductions for the offset printing trade. The original art work as made by the artist in full color is reproduced in four colors which, combined, give an exact reproduction of the original. These color designs are then used on greeting cards, stationery, advertising material and wherever colored illustrations are demanded.

In 1951 he erected a building near his home and later enlarged it. Today he has ample room for his expensive equipment, which includes a camera 13 feet long, capable of making a negative 24 inches square. He also has a 10 by 15 inch offset printing press and is equipped to make aluminum printing plates for the offset printing trade. Today with his son Edwin, Jr., and other seasonal help, he finds that his location in the country presents no serious handicap and has some advantages in conducting an active business.

The general store, now under the management of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Shatos, continues to serve the public much as it has always done. Its modern up-to-date appearance bears no resemblance to the olden days when the townspeople gathered around the potbellied stove waiting for the mail to be sorted. The Inn has already been covered at length. A newcomer is the Pullen Manor Club operated by Frederick W. Harris.

Several men are employed by the State Department of Natural Resources on the many acres of state-owned land. The force is augmented during the spring, summer and autumn seasons by several men who supervise and maintain the various picnic areas. The Department has made extensive plans to increase these recreational facilities which should, in the near future, make Warwick a mecca for nature lovers and outdoor sports enthusiasts.

We have enjoyed the reputation of maintaining an excellent highway department for years. Today under the direction of our Superintendent of Streets, Allen Miner, our roads continue to be maintained in first-class condition. With over 56 miles of roads this is no small task to perform.

And now we must end our story about the past and the present of our little town, and face toward the future. What that future will be in this uncertain age we do not know and we would be presumptuous to predict. This much we can state: there are those who loved Warwick in the bygone days and there are those who love it today. We must face the future optimistically, plan wisely and work diligently so that there may be many who will continue to love the old town and remember us with gratitude for what we have passed on to them.

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George A. Witherell, 1902-06; 1914-19
Fred W. Bass, 1906-09; 1912-20
Leslie W. Green, 1909-11
Ludwig Nordstedt, 1910-13
Orville W. Cole, 1915-20
Ernest G. Prouty, 1920
Josiah Joslin, 1921-22
Carl G. Stange, 1921-30
George D. Shepardson, 1921-26
Charles E. Lincoln, 1923; 1931-40
Frank W. Webster, 1924-35; 1943-52
Lee J. Dresser, 1927-1954
Leslie F. Mansfield, 1935-46
Charles A. Morse, 1940-43
Frederick W. Harris, 1946-50
Albert H. Stoddard, 1950-56
Oscar C. Doane, Jr., 1952-58
Ralph Holbrook, 1954; 1958-61
George D. Shepardson, Jr., 1954-60
Paul O. Hadsel, 1956-
Robert R. Kolka, 1960-
Gordon S. Anderson, 1961-

Population of Warwick

1765 — 191	1870 — 769
1776 — 766	1880 — 713
1790 — 1246	1890 — 565
1800 — 1233	1900 — 619
1810 — 1227	1910 — 477
1820 — 1256	1920 — 327
1830 — 1150	1930 — 367
1840 — 1071	1940 — 444
1850 — 1021	1950 — 429
1860 — 932	1960 — 426

Town Clerks

James Ball, 1763-74
Amos Marsh, 1775-78
Ezra Conant, 1779-80; 1787-92
Samuel Williams, 1780-82
John Conant, 1783-86; 1793-97
Josiah Pomeroy, Jr., 1798-1801; 1803-04; 1812-17
William Cobb, Jr., 1802
Jonathan Blake, Jr., 1805-07; 1818-20; 1822-28
Asa Thayer, 1821
Dr. Amos Taylor, 1829-37
Lemuel Wheelock, 1838
Abijah Eddy, 1839-45
Charles Chesbro, 1946-48
Ira Draper, 1849-57; 1859-60
Henry Mallard, 1858
Edward F. Mayo, 1861-67; 1874-75
Arlon S. Atherton, 1868-73
Samuel Hastings, 1876-94; 1896-1914
William K. Taylor, 1895
George A. Witherell, 1915-21
Josiah Joslin, 1922-33
Orville W. Cole, 1934-35
Joseph Stevens, 1936-41
Elizabeth S. Earle, 1941-

Beginning in 1902 the office of town clerk and that of town treasurer have been held by the same person, although elected separately.

School Committees, 1895-1962

We give the names and years of service of members of the school committee from 1895, when the number of members was reduced from nine to three:

Etta M. T. Bass, 1895-1906; 1920-21; 1923-31
William E. Blackmer, 1895-1905
James Stockwell, 1895-1897
Gilbert Maynard, 1898-1900
Frank E. Witherell, 1901
Sherman A. Houghton, 1902-1904
George A. Witherell, 1905-1907
Eugene E. Whipple, 1906-1911
George T. Manning, 1907-1909
Rev. John Graham, 1908-1910
F. S. Delvey, 1910-1912
Rhoda Cook, 1911-1919
Leslie W. Green, 1913-1920
Baxter H. Worden, 1912-1919
Gertrude E. Stange, 1921-1922
Orville W. Cole, 1920
Archie J. Fellows, 1921-1922
Edith P. Lincoln, 1922-1936
Ella F. MacLean, 1923-1926
Julia M. Green, 1927-1939
Cornelia Francis, 1932-1940
Anno S. Earle, 1937-1939
Leo R. Martin, 1940
Caroline Davidson, 1941-1942
Evelyn C. Phillips, 1941-1950
Fannie Fournier, 1941-1942
Emily Wetherbee, 1943-1945
Adele Gillespie, 1943-1957; 1960-date
Ralph F. Holbrook, 1946-1949
Frederick W. Harris, 1950-1952
Albert H. Stoddard, 1951-1953
Emily L. Benoit, 1953-1958
Arthur Bowers, 1954-1959
Oscar Doane, Jr., 1958-1960
Avis M. Anderson, 1959-1961
John N. Durkee, 1961-date
Maurice Underwood, 1962-date

Pioneer Valley Regional School Committee

This committee consists of three members one of whom is a member of the town school committee. The other members are elected for a three year term. These members have been as follows:

Albert H. Stoddard, 1955-
John N. Durkee, 1955-1958
Emily L. Benoit, 1955-1958
Charles A. Morse, 1958-

Superintendent of Schools

The office of Superintendent of Schools was filled by a resident of the town until the school union was formed with Northfield, Gill, Bernardston and Leyden in 1896. Largely responsible for the operation of the schools in the union, we include those who have served to date:

Rev. John Goldsbury, 1872-1874
Dr. Samuel P. French, 1870-1871; 1875-1880
Hiland G. Stockwell, 1881-1882
Julia E. Proctor, 1883-1884; 1890-1893
Dr. Frederick E. Jenkins, 1885-1889
Rhoda Cook, 1894-1895
J. E. Warren, 1896-1901
Elmer F. Howard, 1902-1920
E. J. Best, 1921-1924
Linville W. Robbins, 1925-1940
Robert Taylor, 1942-1947
F. Sumner Turner, 1947-

Rev. John Goldsbury, 1870-72
Dr. Samuel P. French, 1870-79
Hervey Barber, 1870-76
Jesse Bridge, 1870-73
William K. Taylor, 1871-72; 1876; 1884-1906
Martin Harris, 1871
Nahum Jones, 1872-95 (22 years)
Andrew Conant, 1875
Edward Frank Mayo, 1874; 1880-94
Rev. — Weston, 1875
Charles Sawyer, 1873
Abner Albee, 1874
Arthur E. Albee, 1877-83
Lyman D. Mason, 1877; 1881
William H. Gale, 1877; 1881-83
Joseph A. Williams, 1879; 1883-1903
Hiland G. Stockwell, 1878; 1882
William H. Bass, 1877-79
Adriel C. White, 1880
James A. J. Moore, 1876; 1884
Leslie W. Greene, 1885-87
Conrad H. Gale, 1888-89
John A. Hoxie, 1889; 1890
George A. Cushing, 1890
Gilman F. Morse, 1891-1905
W. E. Blackmer, 1891-92
Wales N. Ward, 1893-94
James L. Stockwell, 1894-1902
Clara Jones, 1895-1918
Gertrude E. Ball, 1895-1905
Sherman A. Houghton, 1903-06
Henry A. Witherell, 1902-04
David A. Collier, 1904-10
Flora A. Hastings, 1904-11
Fred S. Delvey, 1905-08
Etta M. T. Bass, 1906-44
George A. Witherell, 1906-09
Leslie W. Green, 1908-20
Charles A. Williams, 1908-14
Rhoda A. Cook, 1910-21
Annie M. Stevens, 1911-20
Dr. Paul W. Goldsbury, 1915-20; 1929-34
Mary C. Cole, 1919-56
Edward A. Lyman, 1920-32
Edith P. Lincoln, 1921-37
George L. Taylor, 1922-42
Rev. Clifford D. Newton, 1926-29
Howard Francis, 1932-34
William E. Taylor, 1934-36
Carl A. Nordstedt, 1935-42
Kenneth Matthews, 1937-40
Eleanor B. Morris 1939-54
Caroline Davidson, 1941-42
Adele Gillespie, 1943-61
Fannie Fournier, 1943-46
Henry Nordstedt, 1947-
Gladys Dresser, 1945-45
Bessie Mansfield, 1943-48
Hetty Belle Lincoln, 1949-60
Bessie Thoren, 1954-
Anno S. Earle, 1946-57
Joseph Stevens, 1957-
Elizabeth Earle, 1957-
Helen D. Jay, 1961-
Olin Bowers, 1962-

CEMETERIES

During the course of our story we have mentioned several of our cemeteries but others were omitted. Because these might be sought out occasionally by those whose ancestors rest in them we should complete the record. The main cemetery in the center of town has been adequately covered. The "Rich" cemetery on the west side of the Winchester road, about twenty rods south of the Flower Hill road, was described in the story of Spirit Spring. The "Smallpox" cemetery on the east side of the road at the top of Hastings Heights, in the east side of the town, was mentioned when writing about 1856.

There are two other cemeteries that contain in the neighborhood of fifty graves each, both so inaccessible that they are rarely visited today. The first is known as the "Atwood" cemetery and it lies in the extreme northwest corner of Warwick. The second, called the "Kelton" cemetery, also lies deep in the forest about one quarter of a mile from the Royalston line and slightly north of the New England Power Company high tension lines.

A number of other small family cemeteries are scattered about the town but we cannot attempt their description.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

A complete bibliography giving all the sources providing reference and historical material would be too lengthy to list in detail. A general summary follows.

The all-important minutes of the meetings of the Proprietors of Gardner's Canada and the seven volumes covering the town meetings were carefully examined and copious notes made of all important or interesting actions. In addition all other town records were studied, including the annual reports of town officers from 1875 to date: Assessors' Valuation Records, Records of Selectmen's Appointments and Meetings, Records of Roads Laid Out, School District Records, School Committee Reports and Records, Vital Statistics Records, Minutes of Library Trustees' Meetings. In addition several boxes and a large chest containing countless manuscripts considered worthy of preservation from 1763 to date was inventoried; it revealed many interesting historical facts.

A similar inventory was made at the Warwick Public Library where most of the records pertaining to the social, religious and community life of the town have been deposited. Here are to be found William Cobb's diaries, several scrapbooks and albums containing newspaper clippings, photographs and old pictures, all of great historical value. The records of the following societies and organizations are to be found: Warwick Branch of the Massachusetts Peace Society, Society for the Promotion of Peace and Useful Knowledge, Warwick Lyceum, Warwick Social Library, Union Temperance Society, Warwick Veterans' Association (Civil War), Militia Company Records — 1808-1831, Baptist Society Manuscripts, Universalist Society Manuscripts.

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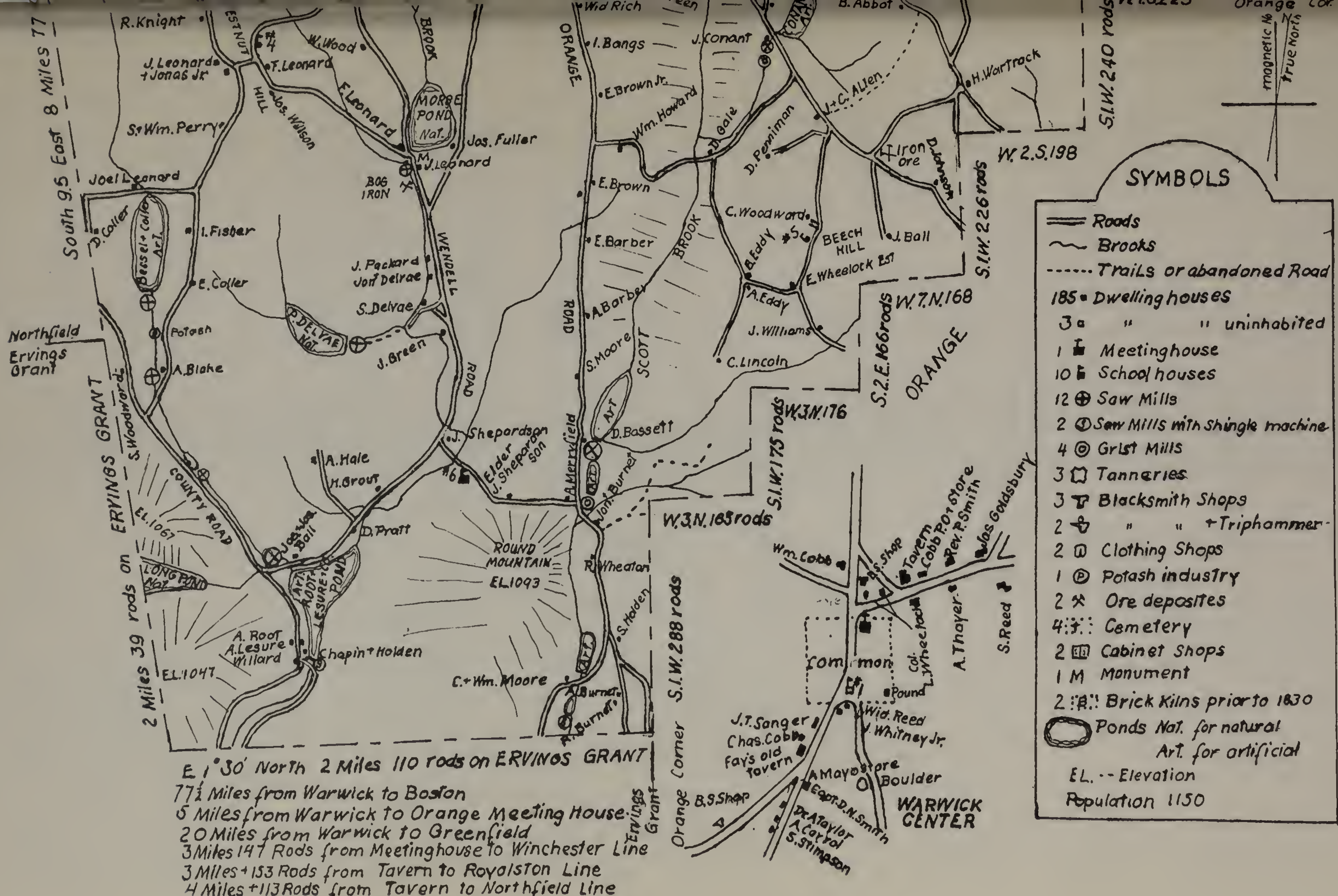
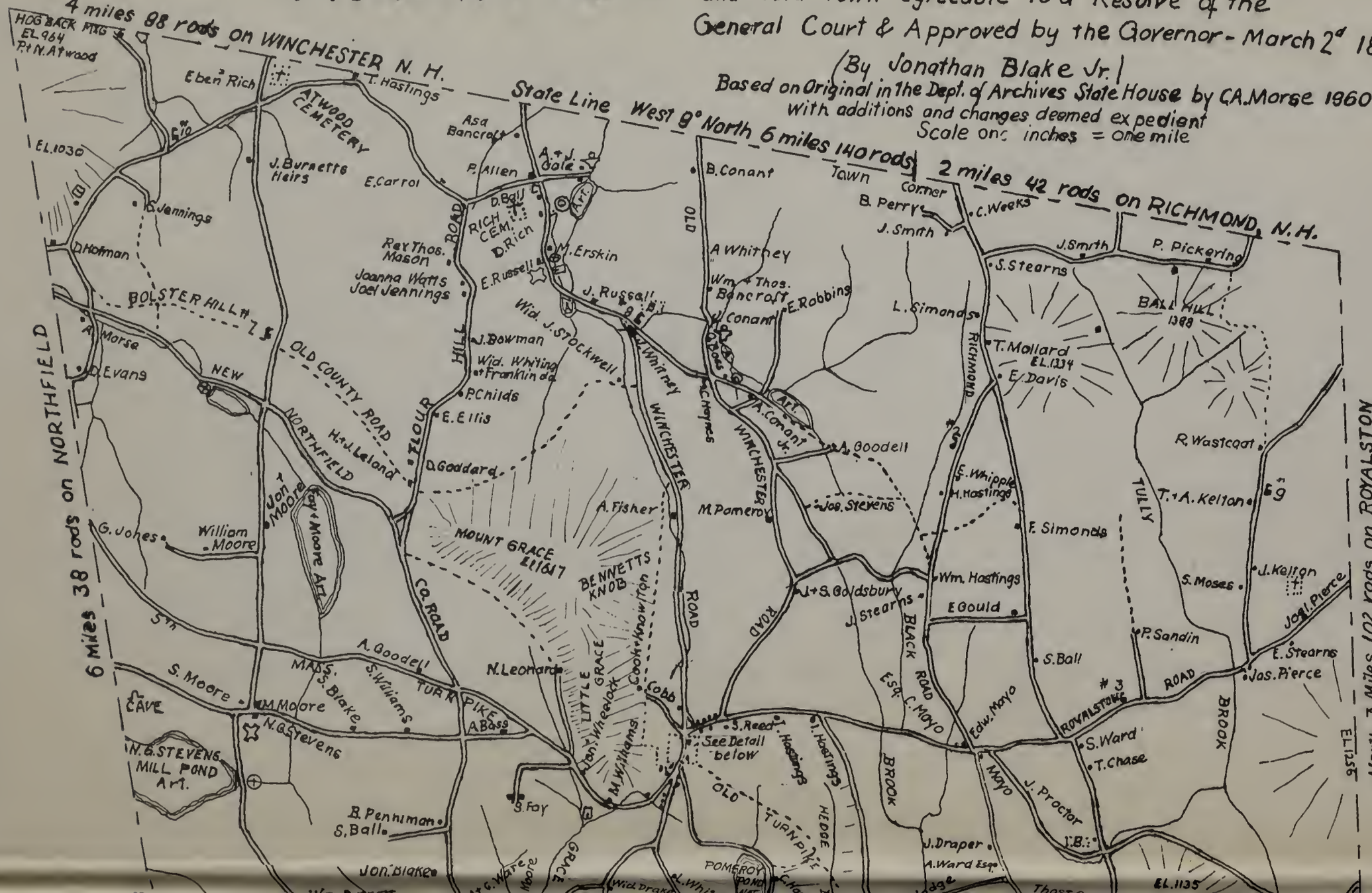

South 9.5 East 8 Miles 77
2 Miles 39 rods on ERVINGS GRANT
E 1°30' North 2 Miles 110 rods on ERVINGS GRANT
77½ Miles from Warwick to Boston
5 Miles from Warwick to Orange Meeting House
20 Miles from Warwick to Greenfield
3 Miles 147 Rods from Meetinghouse to Winchester Line
3 Miles + 153 Rods from Tavern to Royalston Line
4 Miles + 113 Rods from Tavern to Northfield Line
Northfield
Ervings Grant
Orange Corner
S.1.W. 288 rods
W.3.N. 165 rods
S.1.W. 175 rods
W.3.N. 176
S.2.E. 166 rods
W.7.N. 168
S.1.W. 226 rods
W.2.S. 198
S.1.W. 240 rods
ORANGE
WARWICK CENTER
ROUND MOUNTAIN
EL. 1093
EL. 1047
EL. 1061
LONG POND Nat.
MORSE POND Nat.
D. DELVAE Nat.
COUNTY ROAD
WENDELL ROAD
ORANGE ROAD
SCOTT BROOK
BEECH HILL
BOG IRON
Iron ore
Common
magnetic No
True North
SYMBOLS
Roads
Brooks
Trails or abandoned Road
185 • Dwelling houses
3 ▫ " " uninhabited
1 Meetinghouse
10 School houses
12 ⊕ Saw Mills
2 Saw Mills with Shingle machine
4 ◎ Grist Mills
3 Tanneries
3 Blacksmith Shops
2 " " + Triphammer
2 Clothing Shops
1 Potash industry
2 ⚒ Ore deposites
4 Cemetery
2 Cabinet Shops
1 M Monument
2 Brick Kilns prior to 1830
Ponds Nat. for natural
Art. for artificial
EL. - - Elevation
Population 1150

WARWICK

Plan of the Town of Warwick surveyed and laid down agreeable to a Resolve of the General Court & Approved by the Governor - March 2d 1830

(By Jonathan Blake Jr.)

Based on Original in the Dept. of Archives State House by C.A. Morse 1960
with additions and changes deemed expedient
Scale one inches = one mile